

Demetri Jones fights for his job at JPS



Jones

By Othor Cain
Editor

Middle school students within the Jackson Public Schools District received progress reports this week. When students were asked about their grades at Hardy Middle School, one student said, “I received no grade in one of my classes because we don’t have a teacher.” Another student said, “we’ve had three or four substitute teachers who just don’t care if we pass or fail...they are just here to get a check.” Jackson is Mississippi’s second



Forest Hill Band warms up for competition in Straight Outta Forest Hill uniforms.

and largest school district and has been cited numerous times for the enormous teacher shortage; yet the district is seemingly set on firing good employees – at least one. One man, one school, three jobs – that was Demetri Jones’ position just a few weeks ago. Jones, who revived the band organization at Forest Hill High School when he arrived eight years ago, was also soccer coach and math teacher. He is at the center of a controversial termination hearing. Jones restored

faith and confidence in the more than 86 band scholars. Before he arrived there were less than 10 band members. Jones appealed his termination Monday, at the Jackson Public Schools headquarters. Jones was fired after officials deemed the band’s halftime performance in Brookhaven, Mississippi, insensitive. During the band’s performance, it showed students pointing guns at other students dressed as police officers. The performance came just a

week after two Brookhaven officers were killed in the line of duty. *The Mississippi Link* was the only media outlet to conduct an exclusive interview with Jones after the performance made national news. Jones said then and maintains that he was not aware of the situation in Brookhaven. “Ask any band director, when you’re preparing for competition, we have tunnel vision, we tune everything else out,” he said. *Forest Hill Continued on page 3*

NAACP: Mississippi candidate’s ‘public hanging’ remark is sick, shameful

By Hazel Trice Edney
TriceEdneyWire.com

The NAACP has issued a stinging rebuke to Republican Mississippi Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, who recently invoked a reference to a “public hanging” amidst her campaign against African-American Democratic candidate Mike Espy. Referring to a glowing endorsement from Mississippi cattle rancher Colin Hutchinson, Hyde-Smith said, “If he invited me to a public hanging, I’d be on the front row.” The remarks drew laughter and applause, but she apparently did not know the comments were being videotaped by journalist Lamar White Jr. After public release of the video, Hyde-Smith issued a statement saying, “In a comment Nov. 2, I referred to accepting an invitation to a speaking engagement. In referencing the one who invited me, I used an exaggerated expression of regard, and any attempt to turn this into a negative connotation is ridiculous.” She has refused to make any further comment or apologize for the remark, which clearly invokes painful images of thousands of black people who were lynched or killed by white supremacists in the Deep South with Mississippi being a leading offender. The highest number of lynchings in the U. S. took place in Mississippi from 1882-1968 with 581, according to the NAACP. “Georgia was second with 531, and Texas was third with 493,” says a report by the civil rights organization, adding that 79 percent of lynching happened in the South. Among the best known killings of black people by white supremacists, Emmett Till and Medgar Evers, occurred in Money and Jackson, Mississippi respectively. Further exacerbating the impact of Hyde-Smith’s remark is the fact that she has been endorsed by President Donald Trump, who has made no public comment on the issue. “Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith’s shameful remarks prove once again how Trump has created a social and political climate that normalizes hateful and racist rhetoric. We’ve seen this in Florida from Ron DeSantis and others during this election season and denounce it,” said NAACP President Johnson in a statement. Ron DeSantis, Republican nominee for Florida governor, also drew a fire storm of criticism when he said in a television interview that Florida voters should not “monkey this up” by electing Andrew Gillum, his opponent, who would be the state’s first black governor. That campaign is amidst a recount. “Hyde-Smith’s decision to joke about ‘hanging,’ in a state known for its violent and terroristic history toward African Americans is sick. To envision this brutal and degenerate type of frame during a time when black people, Jewish people and immigrants are still being targeted for violence by white nationalists and racists is hateful and hurtful,” Johnson said. “Any politician seeking to serve as the national voice of the people of Mississippi should know better. Her choice of words serves as an indictment of not only her lack of judgement, but her lack of empathy, and most of all lack of character.” Espy has released a statement calling Hyde-Smith’s comments “reprehensible” and saying, “They have no place in our political discourse in Mississippi or our country. We need leaders, not dividers, and her words show that she lacks the understanding and judgment to represent the people of our state.” Joining the rebuke of Hyde-Smith, Mississippi Rep. Bennie Thompson described her comments as “beyond disrespectful and offensive.” He pointed out that Mississippi has “one of the highest numbers of public lynching, that we know of, than any other state in this country.” Hyde-Smith has refused to speak further on the issue, saying, “I put out a statement yesterday, and that’s all I’m



Hyde-Smith



Espy

The President and the Press: Unhinged attacks are repulsive

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist

A cursory look at the win-loss column after last week’s mid-term elections suggests that nobody left the table empty-handed. Democrats gained control of the House of Representatives, Republican’s expanded their control of the Senate, hundreds of state legislative seats flipped from Democratic to Republican and Democrats gained gubernatorial, attorney general and other key positions. But both democracy and the truth took a hit during the mid-terms, when the President of the United States obfuscated, prevaricated and just plain lied every chance he got. And then he had the nerve to say he tells the truth “when he can,” which really means he tells the truth only when it serves him. During the midterm campaign, 45 notably attacked Democratic opponents, often with the vilest of lies. African-American political candidates, especially Stacey Abrams (Georgia) and Andrew Gillum (Florida), were the focus of his ire. While 45 counts the midterm election as a victory, he was so

testily obnoxious in the press conference the day after the election that it is clear that he felt the loss. And when a bully is beaten, he lashes out. CNN’s Jim Acosta was the victim of his ire. Because he was persistent in asking a question, he was falsely accused of putting his hands on someone, and his White House press pass was revoked. At the same press conference, the so-called leader of the free world was rudely dismissive to American Urban Radio’s star reporter, April Ryan, repeatedly telling her to “sit down.” Then, on November 9, he attacked Ryan, calling her a “loser” and saying that she “doesn’t know what the hell she is doing.” He said he might consider yanking her press credentials. The president is on a roll when it comes to black women in the press. He told CNN’s Abby Phillips that she “always asks stupid questions” when she asked him whether he elevated Matt Whitaker to acting attorney general because he will impede the Mueller investigation. Stupid is the perfect way to describe a president who does not even know how to use Google search to figure out that his pick to replace Jeff Sessions is biased



Acosta



Ryan



Phillips



Alcindor

against an investigation he is now charged with supervising. Phillips, a consummate and smooth professional, surely understands that she is in good company. Trump loves to attack black women, especially those who oppose him (like Maxine Waters) for their intellectual acuity. At the same press conference

Attacks Continued on page 3



Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi dedicated seventh Habitat home November 9

Mississippi Link Newswire

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi and Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area (HFHMCA) dedicated a home for a local family as part of a Covenant Build project. Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi's dedicated employee volunteer program, Team Blue, provided 100 percent of the volunteer labor for the project which began in August and was completed in October. Team Blue volunteers, along with Habitat for Humanity construction professionals, worked on Saturdays throughout the build process on the home for Yolanda Brinston and her two children.

Volunteers from Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi and HFHMCA board members and staff joined Brinston November 9 for the dedication of the home at 2966 Smith Robinson Street in Jackson.

"I am very excited to have BCBSMS sponsor my build," Brinston said. "They are the best. This is a fresh start for me and my children."

"Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi is honored to partner with organizations like Habitat for Humanity that share in our vision of a healthy future for our state and support people in transforming their lives in positive, healthy ways," said Sheila Grogan, vice president, community and public relations with Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi. "Our desire is to support individuals in making healthy choices for themselves and their families in every aspect of life."

Building Homes...Building Hope Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area (HFHMCA) is a nonprofit



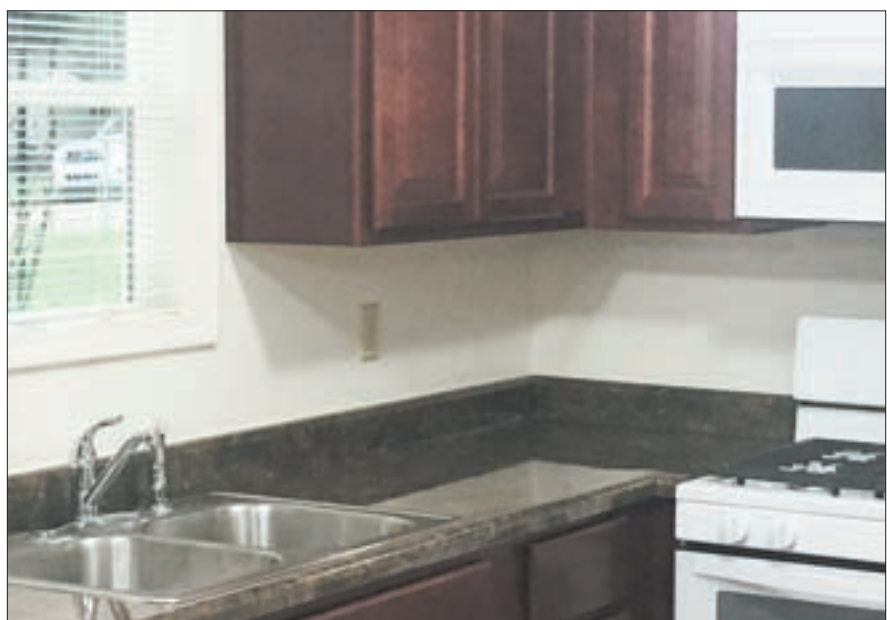
Homeowner Yolanda Brinston

Christian housing organization that seeks to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. Working in partnership with low-income families and using volunteer labor and donated materials whenever possible, the organization is building basic, affordable houses that are then sold to families at cost with no basic profit or interest.

Since its founding in 1986, HFHMCA has partnered with more than 615 families to build homes in the Mississippi capital area.

To learn more about Team Blue and Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi's community involvement, visit www.bcbsms.com.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area, please call 601 353-6060 or visit www.habitatmca.org.



Brinston's kitchen in her new home.



BCBS, HFHMCA board members and staff with Brinston and members of her family

LIVE

HEALTHY
BLUE

BlueCross BlueShield
of Mississippi

It's good to be Blue.

www.bcbsms.com

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi, A Mutual Insurance Company is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.
® Registered Member of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an Association of Independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans.

Attacks

Continued from page 1

premacists that are “excited” by their leader, asked a perfectly legitimate question of the president who has been stoking racial fires since he announced his candidacy. In attacking both the questioner and the question, 45 again showed his biases and his hostility both to the press and to some of the individuals who cover him.

No president enjoys intense press scrutiny, especially when things are not going his way. But no president has been more rude, dismissive and offensive toward the press. No press secretary has been more rude and obnoxious than Sarah Huckabee Sanders. And none has attempted to curtail press freedoms with the vitriol that Trump has.

Trump says he will pull the press credential of any member of the press who is not “respectful” to him. In his tiny mind, disrespect is the same as merely asking difficult or uncomfortable questions. He and Sanders would undoubtedly feel better if there were no press questions, just syncopated fawning.

I don’t expect decency from the president, but I am concerned that the press corps has not been more strongly supportive of their colleagues like Ryan and Acosta. What if, for just one day, every member of the press began her question with, I’m asking this in the name of Jim Acosta? What if they started a question with, “Let me say that my colleague April Ryan is not a loser,” this administration would get some sense of press solidarity. Trump attacks because he can attack and because few are willing to stand up to him.

The president’s hostility toward the press is bad enough. His particular antipathy toward African Americans is even worse. Who will stand up for April Ryan, Abby Phillips and Yamiche Alcindor? Where, by the way, are the women of the #MeToo movement when black women are being attacked?

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book “Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy” is available via www.amazon.com for booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.juliannemalveaux.com

Hyde-Smith

Continued from page 1

going to say about it.”

It is not clear how or whether this new controversy will affect her Nov. 27 run-off against Espy. They both received about 41 percent of the vote in a four-way race Nov. 6. Espy, a former member of the U. S. Congress who served from 1987 to 1993, would become the first black senator to represent Mississippi since Reconstruction.

From 1882-1968, 4,743 lynchings occurred in the United States. Of these people that were lynched 3,446 were black. The blacks lynched accounted for 72.7 percent of the people lynched. These numbers seem large, but it is known that not all of the lynchings were ever recorded. Out of the 4,743 people lynched only 1,297 white people were lynched. That is only 27.3 percent. Many of the whites lynched were lynched for helping the black or being anti-lynching and even for domestic crimes.

Forest Hill

Continued from page 1

Jones said the band began learning the music and discussing the performance in August, months before the situation occurred in Brookhaven.

JPS Superintendent Errick Greene said at the hearing Monday that he fired Jones because, “Jones exercised poor professional judgment and neglected his duty to look out for the students.”

Oddly, Greene assessed the situation the day after the performance and drew his conclusion. “I said then and I maintain now, that I am hard pressed to believe that Mr. Jones didn’t have an agenda...I believe it was political,” Jones said during the hearing.

Greene also testified that he felt political pressure to fire Jones from all sides including Gov. Phil Bryant.

“If I said before it didn’t [have an] impact, then that’s not true... it did have an impact, but not influence...it simply made it more difficult to make the decision that I needed to make... I was pulled in both directions, perhaps even a third direction,” Greene said.

One parent testified that students are not



Controversial scene depicting band members pointing fake guns at band members.


having band classes, that there’s no practice going on and that students are missing engagements.

The termination hearing resumes Nov.

28 and is expected to wrap up then. The Board of Trustees for JPS will vote to either uphold Greene’s recommendation of termination or reverse the decision.





Forest Hill



Even when you’re out, it’s still on.

Xfinity brings the awesome to any commute. Starting with customizable streaming TV that goes where you go. That means access to the hottest TV shows and movies from anywhere, on any device. Plus, at home, save money with flexible channel packs and access Netflix and YouTube right from your TV with X1. So, wherever your day takes you, Xfinity makes sure your entertainment is on. **Simple. Easy. Awesome.**

Call 1-800-Xfinity, visit your local Xfinity Store or xfinity.com



Restrictions apply. Not available in all areas. Xfinity On Demand requires Xfinity TV service. ©2018 Comcast. All rights reserved.

MVSU student ambassadors judge local elementary school reading fair

Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi Valley State University's motto is "Live for Service," and the university's student ambassadors recently had the chance to put those words into motion at a local elementary school.

For the second consecutive year, the group of MVSU student leaders journeyed to Davis Elementary School in Greenwood to serve as guest judges for the school's Annual Reading Fair Competition.

The purpose of the competition is to provide students the opportunity to share their favorite fictional book through a storyboard display.

The ambassadors were assigned a division ranging from kindergarten through sixth grade and judged each reading fair board using a rubric.

Principal Yolanda Greer said that students and school officials were excited to have the MVSU Ambassadors back to judge the competition.

"What a great delight it was to have these young and innovative students in our school displaying greatness in their mannerism and dedication to completing the long but rewarding task of scoring over 100 boards," said Greer.

Not only did the MVSU students judge the competition, but some also used the opportunity to ask questions while sharing their desire to pursue a future career in education.



"Many of the ambassadors stressed an interest in seeking future employment in the educational field. Dressed in their dark green blazers, they impressed both the students and faculty. The ambassadors were invited back to assist with other school events, including reading

to students, tutoring students, and judging other events," Greer shared.

JaQuana Williams, junior mass communication and business administration major expressed how attending the event is something she enjoys and looks forward to.

"This was a great event, and the students' projects were good. This is my second year participating as a judge, and I hope to continue. Coming from the Georgia school system, we never participated in this type of event, so observing the student's creativeness was most interesting,"

said Williams.

Chelsea Washington, a sophomore government/politics, and speech communications major, said that the experience was rewarding.

"This is my first year as a university ambassador and being given the opportunity to help at

a local elementary school was an awesome start," she said. "The experience was fun and brought back my memories of working on reading fair boards. The children and their parents worked very hard to produce great work. I hope to participate again next year."



An Important Message from Medicare

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

OCT. 15 – DEC. 7

This is your time to see if you can find lower premiums and extra benefits. Look at all your Medicare health plan choices for 2019—including prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage Plans from private insurers. Plans change every year—maybe your healthcare needs have changed, too.

Open to something better? **Start today.**

Find health and drug plans at medicare.gov, or call **1-800-MEDICARE** (TTY 1-877-486-2048) for help.

Limited resources? You may qualify for **Extra Help** to pay prescription drug costs. Go to ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/prescriptionhelp/ to find out more.

Like Medicare? 'Like' us on Facebook.

Paid for by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services



MIKE ESPY

★★★ U.S. SENATE ★★★
MISSISSIPPI

*"My late husband Medgar Evers had a vision of a better Mississippi, and on November 27th, we can make his vision a reality and elect **Mike Espy** to the United States Senate. We are at a crossroads, Mississippi. Will we use our sacred right to vote and move forward, or let our souls be dragged back to the past?"*

*"I'm living proof of what we can do if we stand up and make our voices heard, so on November 27th please vote **Mike Espy** for Senate."*

-Myrlie Evers-Williams

WWW.ESPYFORSENATE.COM | @ESPYFORSENATE



Winners of the JPS Open Doors Scrabble Tournament

Mississippi Link Newswire

The JPS Open Doors Scrabble winners were announced following the Districtwide tournament held at Galloway Elementary School November 2. Casey Elementary was the first place overall winner for the elementary division, and Northwest Jackson Middle School won first place overall for the middle school division. See the individual winners by grade below.

Nearly 70 of the District’s best Scrabble players competed in the day-long tournament. The competitors were fourth through seventh-grade students in the gifted education program known as Open Doors. Gifted educators use Scrabble as an instructional tool to build vocabulary skills. The popular board game fosters student learning by helping students to learn new words and definitions, to improve their memory, and to enhance their language and thinking skills.

- Scrabble Winners by Grade
- Grade 4
- 1st Place – Elmer Gordon, Casey Elementary
- 2nd Place – Miles Hansen, Power APAC Elementary
- 3rd Place – James Davis, Key Elementary
- Grade 5
- 1st Place – Reagan Huddleston, Casey Elementary
- 2nd Place – Georgia Mason, Power APAC Elementary
- 3rd Place – Harrison Martin, Power APAC Elementary
- Grade 6
- 1st Place – Cohen Siwisa, Northwest Middle
- 2nd Place – Evan Holmes, Bailey APAC Middle
- 3rd Place – Khadarius Johnson, Northwest Middle
- Grade 7
- 1st Place – Joshua Bennett, Northwest Middle
- 2nd Place – Jamira Handy, Northwest Middle



Overall Elementary Winner – Casey Elementary. Casey Open Doors teachers are (back row, from left) Jessica Weems and Rosalind McCreary.



Overall Middle School Winner – Northwest Jackson Middle. The Open Doors teacher at Northwest is Karen Googe (far right).

‘Pinocchio’ comes to life for students at Baker Elementary



New Stage performs an adaptation of ‘Pinocchio’ for Baker Elementary students.

Mississippi Link Newswire

New Stage Theatre brought ‘Pinocchio’ to Baker Elementary School in October. The show was part of the company’s Arts-in-Education statewide touring program. The troupe put on two shows for the school, which has an enrollment of 282 students in grades pre-K–5. The school’s adopter, the law firm of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell and Berkowitz, sponsored the performance.

Students interacted with the cast as they followed Pinocchio’s quest to become a real boy. They learned the importance of being truthful, selfless and kind to others. The 50-minute production was adapted by playwright Greg Banks. Sharon Miles of New Stage was the director. Cast members were Cherry Rendel, Hayden Schubert, Jordan Williams, and Sarah Coleman.

The New Stage cast led second graders in an engaging classroom activity. They explored the literature, themes of the play and the experience of acting. Afterwards, they helped students create their own movable whale and Geppetto characters from the play.

New Stage Theatre is a professional not-for-profit theatre. These sponsors support, in part, the Arts-in-Education tours:

- Entergy Mississippi
- The Shelby and Richard McRae Foundation
- The Chisholm Foundation
- The Fountain Family Foundation

Whitten Eagles win 2018 JPS Middle School Football Championship



2018 Middle School Football Champs – Whitten Eagles



2018 Middle School Football Runners-Up – Brinkley Eagles

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Whitten Eagles defeated the Brinkley Eagles 22–20 for the JPS Middle School Football Championship

October 23 at South Jackson Field.

Brinkley won the North Division Championship and Whitten won the

South Division Championship to qualify for the citywide title.

The Whitten Eagles are led by Charles Stasher as head coach. Mem-

bers of his coaching staff include James Holden, assistant coach; Karrol Thomas, offensive coordinator; and Moses Bates III, defensive co-

ordinator. Willie Jones is the head coach of the Brinkley Eagles. His assistant coaches are LaVaughn Rankin and LeBrodrick Woods.

Subscribe TODAY

2659 Livingston Road • Jackson MS, 39213
601-896-0084 • www.mississippilink.com

The Mississippi Link

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

e-Mail _____

CHECK ONE

☐ 1 year

☐ 2 year

☐ 3 year

\$32
1 year
subscription

\$64
2 year
subscription

\$96
3 year
subscription

Thank you for your order. Order a subscription for a friend!

The Mississippi Link™

Volume 25 • Number 4

November 15 - 21, 2018

© copyright 2018. All rights reserved.

Publisher.....Jackie Hampton

Editor.....Othor Cain




Copy Editor.....Minnie Garrett

Graphics.....Marcus Johnson

Photographers.....Kevin Robinson & Jay Johnson

Contributing Writers.....Janice K. Neal-Vincent
Ayesha K. Mustafaa

Member:



The Mississippi Link [USPS 017224] is published weekly by The Mississippi Link, Inc. Offices located at 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. Mailing address is P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307 or e-mail us at: editor@mississippilink.com; Please visit our website at: www.mississippilink.com. Phone: (601) 896-0084, Fax 896-0091, out of state 1-800-748-9747. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Jackson, MS.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting items to be considered for publication is Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Subscriptions are \$32 per year; \$64 for two years or \$96 for three years.

Postmaster:
Send all address changes to The Mississippi Link, P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307.

Advertising: For all advertising information, please call (601) 896-0084.

The Mississippi Link accepts no responsibility for unsolicited materials and in general does not return them to sender. Manuscripts and photographs submitted for publication are welcome by The Mississippi Link, but no responsibility can be taken for sources considered to be authoritative, because the publication cannot guarantee their accuracy. Reproduction or use, without permission, of editorial or graphic content, is prohibited.

Illegally passing stopped school buses a daily occurrence in Clinton

The Mississippi Link Newswire

“Bright flashing lights, and ‘stop’ arm out, but still,” bus driver Mike Case said, “I have people that fly past my bus.”

Bus drivers in the Clinton Public School District see daily occurrences of people violating the law by passing stopped buses. The practice puts children’s lives at risk, and drivers are concerned that if it doesn’t stop it will have dire consequences.

Case says that most drivers around him do not seem aware of his presence, even though he is in a 40 foot, bright yellow bus.

“I see them [drivers] on their cell phones, sometimes I even see drivers with headphones in,” he said. “One time, I had just let some children off my bus when a delivery truck flew by me. The driver didn’t even hesitate at the lights and the arm and those kids were out of my bus getting ready to cross. I don’t even want to imagine.”

Sadly, Case wouldn’t have to look far to find how situations like this can end in tragedy. In Indiana a truck ran a bus “stop” arm and an 11-year-old was critically injured, and three others; a sister, 9-year-old, and two brothers, twin 6-year-olds, were all declared dead at the scene. The following day in Lee County, a 9-year-old student was struck and killed by a motorist driving through the bus stop sign.

And the incidents don’t stop there. Three children and two adults in Tampa, Fla., all were critically injured after being hit by a motorist at their bus stop. A student in Franklin, Penn., also was critically injured while waiting on his bus. All of these incidents occurred within a one-week span of time.

Another Mississippi fatality was 5-year-old Nathan Key who was killed in a bus accident in 2009. Following his death, state lawmakers passed a law making it illegal not to stop for buses with their lights flashing and stop arm extended.

Under “Nathan’s Law,” fines for stop-arm running range from \$350 to \$750 for a first offense and \$750 to \$1,500 for a second or subsequent offense, which will also result in a driver’s license suspension of 90 days.

“My hope is that the drivers around Clinton will respect the stop sign and flashing lights, stop an appropriate distance back from the bus and watch for exiting students,” said CPSD Transportation Director Donny Gray.

Trina Johnson drives a route for CPSD on Highway 49.

“I have had cars pass me on my door side while I have been stopped,” she said. “If I hadn’t been keeping aware and held those kids at the door they would have been hit.”

Johnson said that putting the yellow lights on when she is a little ways from her stop is not an invitation to speed up, but cars seem to take it that way.

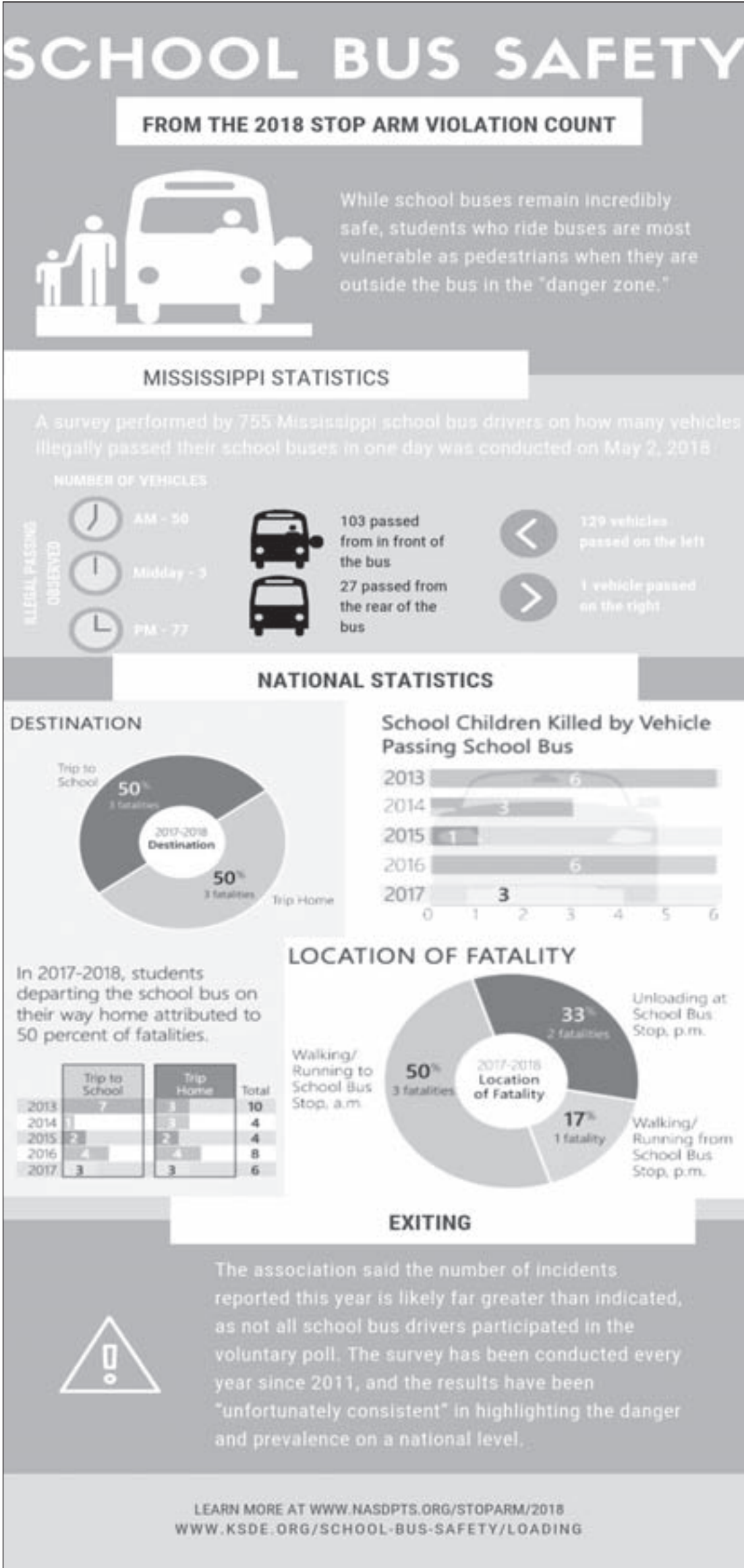
“First, I put my yellow lights on to alert all those around me that there is a stop coming up, then as I am stopping the red lights go on and the stop arm goes out,” she said.

When a driver sees this, she said, they are not supposed to pass the bus. Not only is passing a bus that is flashing yellow and coming to a stop illegal, “[drivers] do not know where those students are going, students could be crossing in front of the bus or just exiting the side door – it doesn’t matter, drivers need to stop,” she said.

Clinton Police Sgt. Al Kimbrell said, “the bus drivers do their best to send me the plate number, but it seems that the regular stop arm and lights are not enough to deter drivers from



A bus driver waits to pick up students from Clinton High School. Motorists illegally passing stopped school buses is a daily occurrence in Clinton.



Board votes to assign letter grades in special schools

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE) recently voted to assign unofficial letter grades for the 2017-18 school year to four schools that serve students with disabilities and the Corinth School District. The schools and district had not received grades in previous years.

State and federal law mandate that all schools and districts be evaluated using a single accountability system. There are no exclusions for schools with special populations.

The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that all students be included in measures of performance. The law requires those measures to be applied consistently so that schools that need improvement will be identified

for support.

Accountability grades are based, in part, on how well students perform and progress from year to year on the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) tests for English language arts (ELA) and Mathematics. These tests are aligned to the Mississippi College and Career Ready Standards and are administered annually to students in grades 3-8 and in high school.

“State and federal laws require that all schools and districts be held to the same standard so that we have a clear picture of how well they are preparing students for the future,” said Jason Dean, SBE chair.

Unofficial grades for the schools and district are as follows:

School/District	Unofficial Grade	Grade with EL*
Mississippi School for the Deaf	F	F
Mississippi School for the Blind	F	F
Harrison County Child Development Center	F	F
Pascagoula-Gautier School District Exceptional School	F	F
Corinth School District	C	D
Corinth High School	F	F
Corinth Middle School	C	C
Corinth Elementary School	D	D

Spring ACT junior scores released

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Education released recently ACT results for the spring 2018 statewide administration of the ACT to all high school juniors.

The average score among juniors decreased from 18 in 2017 to 17.8 in 2018. Eight districts achieved an average composite of 20.0 or higher compared to 14 in 2017.

Since 2015, the Mississippi Legislature has appropriated approximately \$1 million annually for public schools to administer the ACT to all high school juniors. Annual average scores for juniors have ranged from 17.6 to 18.3.

ACT scores for the graduating class of 2018 were released nationally in October, which showed the average composite score among Mississippi’s graduating class of 2018 remained steady at 18.6 from 2017 to 2018. The national average ACT score for the class of 2018 dropped to 20.8 from 21 in 2017.

The percentage of 2018 Mississippi graduates meeting the benchmark scores for all four tested ACT subjects remained flat at 12 percent, and the percentage decreased among juniors from 10 percent in 2017 to 9 percent in 2018.

“The 11th grade ACT administration measures college-readiness at a crucial time in high school when there is still time to provide interventions to improve achievement,” said Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. “ACT research shows that taking

certain specific courses in high school substantially increases students’ readiness for college level work as well as their readiness for workforce training programs.”

Students who take four or more years of English and three or more years each of math, social studies and natural science typically outperform their peers who report taking fewer courses in these subjects.

Through a partnership with the Mississippi Department of Education and the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), a group of pilot districts have been offering specialized literacy and math courses to high school seniors on the cusp of meeting the ACT benchmark scores. Starting in the 2018-19 school year, all districts are required to offer the specialized classes, the Essentials for College Literacy and the Essentials for College Math.

The Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning and Mississippi community colleges allow students who earn a grade of 80 percent or higher in the specialized classes to enter credit-bearing courses when they start college.

The MDE provides districts with training related to analyzing ACT data, evaluating course taking patterns and designing ACT preparation courses.

View school- and district-level ACT results for juniors at <https://www.mdek12.org/OPR/Reporting/Assessment/2017-18>

For information about advertising in The Mississippi Link please call: 601-896-0084 or e-mail jlinkads@bellsouth.net www.mississippilink.com

Midterm voting at JSU rises exponentially after SGA's successul 'March to Poll' rally



JSU's SGA president LaCurtis Powell and SGA vice president Jordan Jefferson, center, lead throngs of voters to the JSU Student Center to cast their ballots for midterm candidates – locally and statewide. Tuesday's "March to the Poll Hotspot" is credited with catapulting JSU's Precinct 49 to a whopping 194 percent increase in voting since the last major balloting there. PHOTOS BY CHARLES A. SMITH/JSU

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Dozens of the nearly 360 people who voted Tuesday trotted en masse to the JSU Student Center during a "March to the Poll Hotspot" to cast their midterm ballots.

The Student Government Association's aggressive get-out-the-vote campaign netted almost a 194 percent increase in voting since the last major elections at Precinct 49 inside the JSU Student Center.

Young leaders who had assembled students on the Gibbs-Green Memorial Plaza election day wanted peers and candidates to know their votes count.

SGA president LaCurtis Powell, a senior criminal justice major from Jackson, said he was ecstatic to see the student center bustling with activity as students cast their ballots.

"I'm happy we got a great turnout. ... We had a line of people outside the door of the voting area and down the stairwell. That's really good because it shows that students know the importance of voting. For them to get up and get out of bed, go to class, then vote is really great," he said.

Powell said election day's political races were among the most important in the history of their lives.

"This midterm election is critical to getting people we need in office to not only advocate for Jackson State University but the city of Jackson and Mississippi as a whole." Also, he said, "I wanted to get all my peers together and educate them on the importance of voting and get us all to vote together because there's power in numbers."

Powell said some of the hot-button issues cited by students included getting proper funding for the university as well as for the city "because a lot of students live off campus and must deal with issues, too. We just want good representation from our political leaders."

He said he's been hearing a lot from candidates willing to advocate for students and has applauded Democratic Senate candidate Mike Espy, in particular, for vowing to tackle student loans and debt.

"That touched home because when I first started here I was not on any type of scholarship. I was paying out of pocket and using student loans to help support my parents. To know that this is an issue that Espy wants to work on, not just for Jackson State but also for the whole state of Mississippi, is wonderful. We need more people like him in office who can advocate for us," he said.

Jean Lavine, poll manager for JSU's Precinct 49, said the turn-



The Delta Phi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. continues its national organization's message that a "voteless people is a hopeless people."



Exercising a basic yet important right brings much joy.

out made her feel "elated" and "giddy." Her job was making sure all machines were operational, assessing problems and assisting people in voting by affidavits for various reasons.

"After working at the precinct twice and seeing a total of only six votes one time and 10 the next time, that was heartbreaking. Jackson State is the urban university, and there is no reason that our students shouldn't be taking this more seriously. This is where you are living now."

She continued, saying, "These candidates represent you. You've got judges on the ballot. If you get in trouble, you need to know that person's personality and what the individual represents. So, you need to vote in the municipality where it will have an immediate impact on your life."

Lavine credits JSU for how it responded to this year's get-out-the-vote effort. She urged faculty and staff as well to continue engaging students and explaining to them the benefits of voting. "Voting could impact appropriation to support your school," she said.

Meanwhile, she advises that students who desire to cast ballots at the campus site to change

their address to 1400 John R. Lynch Street, where JSU is located. If they are registered elsewhere, however, they can vote via affidavit because everyone must be allowed to vote. However, the vote won't count.

"I can't turn anybody away," Lavine said. She suggests to individuals wanting to continue voting at their hometown precincts to contact their circuit clerk and request an absentee ballot.

Not surprising, several students who are fairly new to voting took pride in casting their ballots.

Gaybriel Payton, a junior sociology major from Hattiesburg, said even though he's from Forrest County that voting in Hinds County is significant because "I'm directly affected by all the decisions our elected officials are making."

He said he's especially concerned about fair sentencing of minority people on a number of legal issues, including those caught with a small amount of illegal substances.

Christian White – a sophomore graphic design major who is also from Hattiesburg – said he's voting because "every voice matters." He laments that some

peers say their voices don't matter. That's simply not true, White said.

"Voting really starts with us. If we don't go out and vote, no one else will. Then, important decisions will be made for us." He acknowledges also that some young people don't want to vote and are uncertain as to why they should vote. However, he wants them to reprogram their thoughts and learn more about the historical struggles that African Americans had in earning the right to vote.

He said he remains inspired that a greater change is coming.

"It hasn't been that long since I've been old enough to vote, but what I've seen is the growth in interest from my peers. This is a major change and a blessing."

Another student isn't taking voting lightly either.

Jaelin Thomas is a sophomore pre-veterinarian medicine major from California. She said, "I think everybody should vote because we need more students to participate, and more people in general. We should take a stance, and we can then say we actually voted a particular candidate in office rather than just letting them win."

Thomas said combating racism is an important topic for her because blacks are being killed for no reason. She then contrasted a world of two realities. "Adult African-American parents have to teach their kids who are new drivers what to do when a cop is behind you. However, Caucasians don't have to be taught that."

She also is calling for civility and human decency by suggesting that President Donald Trump end his hard-line immigration policies. She said those seeking refuge near the U.S.-Mexican border don't pose a threat. "I'm from California. I have a lot of Mexican friends."

Veterans Day: Lieutenant colonel urges cadets to 'pay it forward' using 'seeds to success'



Lt. Col. Dexter M. Brookins, left, chair and professor of the Department of Military Science, welcomes keynote speaker Lt. Col. G. Torrie Jackson Jr., who is accompanied by his wife Debra Mays-Jackson, vice president and chief of staff for JSU. The military officer delivered the Veterans Day address Friday. PHOTOS BY L.A. WARREN/JSU



JSU President William B. Bynum Jr. greets Christopher Hines, a JSU graduate cadet studying criminology. Hines aims to give back to the community and the U.S. through 25 years of service and, ultimately, as a general.

Jackson State University

During Veterans Day observance at JSU, a longtime military officer of the U.S. Army Reserve/Mississippi Army National Guard and Operation Iraqi Freedom reminded cadets, comrades and retired service members of the five seeds to success.

Keynote speaker and JSU alum Lt. Col. G. Torrie Jackson Jr. is commander of the 5th Logistic Civil Augmentation Program Support Battalion in Sheffield, Alabama. He has served 30 years in various capacities.

Jackson said, "One of the important things about recognizing Veterans Day is so that you can continue to have veterans. When people who are not in the military see veterans being recognized it gives them the incentive to get involved in something that brings appreciation from others. You pay it forward and backward."

Speaking inside the JSU Student Center Ballroom, he advised the audience against measuring success in terms of money or title. Rather, he said, a hero's success is tied to the following key principles:

Courage: "Do what is right at the right time in the face of fear. Focus on what it takes to be successful."

Competence: "Know how to get it done. If I know my job and I am comfortable with my skills, this gives me courage to take a stand and make hard decisions. Remember, the world does not owe you anything. It knows that and will treat you that way."

Confidence: "Know your job because confidence brings courage."

Candor: "Being truthful starts with yourself. Know what your strengths and weaknesses are ... Lean on someone who is strong where you're weak. ... I'm a procrastinator. ... Sometimes I need people to tell me I need to get going."

Commitment: "You can't use this word lightly. ... If you're truly committed, you must be all in. ... The race is not given to the swift nor the strong but unto them that endure to the

end."

Lt. Col. Dexter M. Brookins, chair and professor of the Department of Military Science, said the event was outstanding because we were able to recognize our veterans on campus and throughout the city of Jackson.

Brookins added, "A lot of first responders were here because they go through a lot, too. When I was deployed as a military guy I expected to get shot at by the bad guy. Now, first responders are going through a different thing here in America. So, this Veterans Day was outstanding because we have a lot of folks who are still serving. We're happy to be recognized by civilians who thank us for our service to this nation."

He especially expressed gratitude to JSU administrators for their commitment to veterans, service members and ROTC cadets. He applauded partner schools involved with the Tiger Battalion for their commitment to defending the U.S. He listed the partners as Delta State University, Mississippi Valley State University, Belhaven University, Mississippi College, Millsaps College, Tougaloo College; the University of Mississippi Medical Center and Mississippi College School of Law.

Meanwhile, Jackson, who is also a school administrator for the Holmes County School District Central High School, described the caliber of a good leader.

"While everyone can be a hero, you have to look at characteristics that make up a hero," said Jackson, also a lieutenant for the Hinds County Sheriff's Office Reserve Division. He said a person sometimes becomes a hero "on the spot" without knowing it. The individual is able to produce extraordinary results by applying the five seeds.

Christopher Hines, a JSU graduate cadet studying criminology, said the most important word from Jackson's message was commitment. "You have to be dedicated to what you do. You must be consistent with your performance."

Congressman Thompson announces \$121,658 in housing preservation grant funds to the Mississippi Second Congressional District

Mississippi Link Newswire

Recently, United States Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) announced the U. S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Housing Preservation Grants Program has awarded \$51,658.15 to Tunica County and \$70,000 to Delta Grace, Inc. located in Sunflower County.

Recipient	Amount	Project	Contact
Tunica County	\$51,658.15	Grant funds will be used to assist low and very low-income homeowners in repairing and rehabilitation of owned and occupied homes in rural Tunica.	Ms. Mardis Jones 662-363-2515
Delta Grace, Inc.	\$70,000.00	Grant funds will be used to assist low and very low-income homeowners in repairing and rehabilitation of homes in rural areas located within a 30-mile radius from the City of Sunflower, within the counties of Sunflower, Leflore, Yazoo, Humphreys and Bolivar counties.	Ms. Sarah Fortenberry 330-501-5494

Mississippi Children’s Museum Volunteer of the Month: Dianna Parker



Dianna Parker Photo courtesy of the Mississippi Children's Museum.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Dianna Parker has been recognized as an outstanding volunteer at Mississippi Children’s Museum (MCM) and has been named “Volunteer of the Month” for October.

Parker, a senior at Jackson State University, takes her commitment to volunteering very seriously. “Volunteering is important to me because I love helping people,” responded Parker when asked why she volunteers.

MCM was an easy decision to make as the perfect place for Parker to volunteer because she is completing her bachelor’s degree in child-care and family education. “I have my associates degree in child development and currently work at an ear-

ly childhood education center” while also attending school, noted Parker.

“I have enjoyed being a part of all the different activities. My favorite part was assisting the children in spin art and watching their excitement as they created art and how proud they were when they were done. I also enjoyed helping with Planting the Seeds to Read program and seeing how happy the children were to be at MCM.”

“She shows up, works hard, engages with the children in a positive way and is a joy to be around,” said Sharon Griffin, MCM’s volunteer coordinator. “You could tell by her smile that she was really enjoying her time at MCM.”

Hill of Zion Missionary Baptist Church hosts party at Mississippi State Hospital



Volunteers from Hill of Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Bolton, MS at Mississippi State Hospital.

Mississippi Link Newswire

Volunteers from Hill of Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Bolton, MS, shared their time and talent Nov. 3 to provide a Thanksgiving dinner for patients at Mississippi State Hospital.

Hill of Zion Missionary Baptist Church is one of more than 50 groups who will provide parties and activities to over 700 patients and residents at the hospital this holiday season.

“The outpouring of love and support from all of our volunteer groups adds so much to the lives of our patients and residents during the holiday season,” said Sheila Shows, Volunteer Services director for the hospital.

Holiday festivities at MSH will culminate on Santa Day, Friday, Dec. 21. An annual tradition, Santa Day, is a day when community volunteers and

leaders gather at the hospital dressed as Santa and deliver gift bags to each and every patient and resident.

MSH, a program of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and helps the individuals it serves achieve mental wellness by encouraging hope, promoting safety and supporting recovery. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

Walmart announces new focus on hiring military spouses; update to Mississippi Veterans hiring number

Mississippi Link Newswire

Walmart recently announced it will give hiring preference to military spouses, becoming the largest U.S. company to make such a commitment. The Military Spouse Career Connection, a new initiative by Walmart to recruit and hire military spouses, complements the 2013 Veterans Welcome Home commitment, enhanced in 2015, to hire 250,000 military veterans by 2020, a goal it is on track to surpass next year.

In Mississippi, Walmart has hired more than 3,448 veterans to date.

Walmart announced it has hired more than 212,000 veterans nationwide since full implementation of the Veterans Welcome Home Commitment, and with over 32,000 veteran associates promoted since joining the Walmart and Sam’s Club teams, they are turning opportunities into careers.

Walmart honored veterans, their spouses and families across the country with dozens of in-store ceremonies and events. Nationally, Walmart associates and local stores shared Facebook “thank you” messages to veterans and their families.

“Military spouses are unsung heroes,” said Walmart President and CEO Doug McMillon, during a Veterans Day ceremony at the company’s headquarters in Bentonville. “They serve in partnership with their uniformed spouses, and we want to honor them and help them find a job or build



an amazing career. To military spouses: You’ve got a home at Walmart!”

There are more than 500,000 active duty military spouses nationwide. While the U.S. jobless rate hovers at four percent nationally, military spouses face a 26 percent unemployment rate and a 25 percent wage gap compared to their civilian counterparts. A full 77 percent of these spouses want or need work, yet frequent relocation is often a barrier to finding and maintaining a rewarding career, according to the Department of Defense Military Spouse Employment Partnership.

Military spouses are diverse, entrepreneurial, adaptable, educated, team-oriented and civically engaged, according to Syracuse University’s Institute for Veterans and Military Families. Nearly 85 percent have some college education or higher. A quarter have a bachelor’s degree and 10 percent have an advanced degree.

“We have a duty to honor veterans and military families,” said Retired Brig. Gen. Gary Profit, senior director of military programs for Walmart. “But, more importantly, they are tremendous assets to our business. Military spouses bring many of the same leadership qualities we see in veterans, yet they are disproportionately unemployed. We welcome them to Walmart and hope they will consider us for the next step on their career journey.”

Through the Military Family Promise, Walmart has long offered military spouses and veterans the ability to transfer from one Walmart or Sam’s Club location to another when a spouse is transferred because of the military. The Military Spouse Career Connection takes the company’s commitment one step further by offering any military spouse with a current Uniformed Services Identification Card hiring preference when they apply for a job with the company beginning November 12, 2018. All candidates must meet the standard hiring criteria, and available positions can be found at walmartspouseswithamission.com.

For more information about Walmart’s Veterans Welcome Home Commitment and overall support to veterans, service members and military families, visit walmartcareer-swithamission.com

ary spouses bring many of the same leadership qualities we see in veterans, yet they are disproportionately unemployed. We welcome them to Walmart and hope they will consider us for the next step on their career journey.”

Through the Military Family Promise, Walmart has long offered military spouses and veterans the ability to transfer from one Walmart or Sam’s Club location to another when a spouse is transferred because of the military. The Military Spouse Career Connection takes the company’s commitment one step further by offering any military spouse with a current Uniformed Services Identification Card hiring preference when they apply for a job with the company beginning November 12, 2018. All candidates must meet the standard hiring criteria, and available positions can be found at walmartspouseswithamission.com.

For more information about Walmart’s Veterans Welcome Home Commitment and overall support to veterans, service members and military families, visit walmartcareer-swithamission.com

Gov. Phil Bryant pppoints Angel Myers McIlrath DA of the 19th Circuit Court District

Mississippi Link Newswire

Gov. Phil Bryant announced recently he has appointed Angel Myers McIlrath as district attorney of the 19th Circuit Court District. She replaces Tony Lawrence who was elected judge in District 5, Place 1, on the Mississippi Court of Appeals.

Myers McIlrath’s appointment will be effective upon Lawrence assuming his position on the Mississippi Court of Appeals in the January 2019. She will serve the remainder of the term.

The 19th Circuit Court District encompasses Jackson, George and Greene counties.

“Angel has loyally served the people of the 19th Circuit Court District for over a decade, and I am pleased she has accepted this appointment as district attorney,” Gov. Bryant said. “Her vast ex-



McIlrath

perience as a prosecutor and in private practice make her well-qualified, and I know she will continue the exceptional

work in her new role.”

Myers McIlrath has served as an assistant district attorney in the 19th Circuit Court District since 2006, most recently overseeing child abuse cases where she works in conjunction with law enforcement officers and other prosecutors regularly. She also frequently holds community education discussions on protecting children.

“I am honored and humbled by the trust that Governor Bryant has placed in me to do the important work of the district attorney,” said Myers McIlrath. “I remain committed, as I have been for over 12 years, to protecting our children in and out of the courtroom, protecting the rights and dignity of crime victims and to working hard every day to make our community safer. It is my privilege to serve the citizens of Jackson, George

and Greene counties.”

Prior to joining the 19th Circuit Court District she was an associate at Daniel, Coker, Horton and Bell from 2004 to 2006.

Myers McIlrath has also served professionally as an adjunct instructor for the Jackson County Campus of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

“For fifteen years the staff of the district attorney’s office and I have worked to protect children, hold drug dealers and gang members accountable for their criminal acts and ensure that victims have equal rights in the courtroom,” said Lawrence. “It is a mission that we have worked for and believed in every day I have had the honor of serving as district attorney. Angel Myers McIlrath has worked with me for twelve of those fifteen years and believes in that mission

as well. I am proud that I have the good fortune to transfer the important duties in this office to such a capable person like Angel.”

Myers McIlrath holds a bachelor of arts in political science and government from the University of Southern Mississippi and a juris doctorate from the Mississippi College School of Law.

She was the president of the Mississippi Prosecutor’s Association from 2015 to 2016. Additionally, Myers McIlrath is a member of the Mississippi Bar Association, Jackson County Bar Association, Jackson County Young Lawyers, National District Attorney’s Association, Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (AP-SAC).

She lives in Ocean Springs, Miss.

Memories of Jonestown massacre leave haunting memories, important lessons during 40th Anniversary Memorial Wall for children Finally Ready for Dedication

By Hazel Trice Edney
TriceEdneyWire.com

The church building at 1859 Geary Street in San Francisco was in its earlier days festive, vibrant and joyous. Like a cultural hub, there was often plenty of dancing, entertainment, skits, plays, food and toys for the children.

But, this Sunday morning was different.

“There was an eerie type of feeling in the air. It wasn’t the same,” recalled Ed Norwood, who was then only about 7 years old. “It was very dark. It wasn’t as vibrant. It wasn’t as joyous. And shortly after, some of the members began to create a boxing ring in the pulpit.”

He recalls how they then “placed a 5-year-old boy in one corner with boxing gloves. And they placed an 8-year-old boy in another corner. And I guess the 5-year-old was a bit mischievous and by accident had caused a young girl’s leg to be broken at school.”

Norwood continued, “Jim was a punisher and an inflictor of fear. In this particular scenario, he allowed this 8-year-old to pound this 5-year-old boy for about three rounds until he was unconscious. That’s probably one of the most vivid memories that I actually have in terms of what took place at Jonestown.”

The fear mongering, manipulation and seduction would gradually grow far worse at the People’s Temple, the name of the church, eventually permeating the atmosphere. Ed’s mother, Jynona Norwood, had begun to have bad dreams, night mares and visions about a massacre for years. A traveling evangelist, she warned people – including her family – about the impending tragedy that she is convinced – even today – that God showed her before it happened.

“There were times Jynona would awake screaming in the night from the force of terrifying visions of danger that lie ahead for those planning to follow Jones,” wrote noted journalist and author Barbara Reynolds. “The visions of death were made even more awful because, in reality, there were so many people telling her to stay silent and not come against such a powerful man as Jim Jones, the pastor.

Ed Norwood, then 8 years old, had been rescued and hidden by his mother, who was convinced of the impending massacre. “I remember her coming and pulling me out of the Temple. She had one arm pulling and my family and the members of the Jones congregation were pulling in a tug of war. She finally takes me. We go around the corner to get a sweet potato pie, but all I can remember is the struggle – one side trying to keep me in; the other side trying to pull me out.”

Forty years later, Ed, now 48 and also an ordained minister, vividly recalls yet another physical struggle as his mother tried to stop her mother from leaving. “I remember her walking painfully to her room, following her close behind while hugging her tightly. She pulls a suitcase out and she begins to pack for a place she thought was better than America. And I never saw her again.”

In a little more than a year after the child’s beating in the boxing ring, the world would witness the full result of the seduction by Jones. On news broadcasts around the world, November 18, 1978, people saw the horrific mounds of more than 900 bloated dead bodies of men, women and children in the deep jungle of Jonestown, Guyana, where Jones had seduced and led much of his congregation



Ed Norwood



Jynona Norwood



King



Williams

to what they thought would be a utopia. The dead included 27 of Norwood’s relatives, including her mother and at least 17 children. Ed never learned the fate of either boy in the boxing ring.

These children, some of whom Ed remembers as playmates – are among those to be honored Sunday, Nov. 18, the 40th anniversary of the Jonestown massacre. The dedication will be held at 11 a.m. (pst) at the Evergreen Cemetery in Oakland, Calif.

After years of fundraising and working to build a wall to memorialize the innocent child victims of the Jonestown massacre, Norwood has finally achieved her dream. “I’ve had every opposition in the world on this wall – and finally we got it done,” she says.

But the moment is only bitter-sweet for it is just a partial victory. In that same cemetery, Jim Jones’ name is listed alongside the victims on top of the mass grave in which 305 children are buried. Therefore, after the ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery is over, the wall will be removed.

“It’s a portable wall. We can’t even leave it there because Jim Jones is honored there,” Norwood describes. “Those children’s sacred final resting place is no longer sacred as long as Jim Jones’ name is there.”

Her son puts it this way: “The memorial that’s there now currently carries the name of Jim Jones. For us, we’ve always felt that was a dishonor to the people who died in Jonestown.”

The late civil rights icon Dick Gregory was among the high profile advocates who were outraged by the Jonestown victims sharing the memorial space with Jones.

While the deaths were widely reported as a mass suicide from cyanide-laced Flavor Aide, many of the factual details remain mysteries. Many were reportedly forced to drink the punch at gunpoint. Dr. Leslie Mootoo, Guyana’s chief pathologist, said the majority of the bodies had puncture wounds between their shoulder blades from the needles.

U. S. Rep. Leo Ryan, the only congressman believed to be assassinated in the line of duty, was among five who were shot and killed at the Port Kaituma airstrip as they tried to leave Guyana after checking on reports that people were being held against their will.

The messages of those preparing to speak at the anniversary service will no doubt carry visionary force.

“It’s important that we never, ever forget and learn how to arm ourselves with that which is truth, justice and good,” said Martin Luther King III, the keynote speaker for the event. “This memorial creates the consciousness so that we never ever forget about those – in particular the innocent children – who had no choice.”

E. Faye Williams, national chair of the National Congress of Black Women, another speaker at the event, also reflects on the tragedy of the dead children. “The job of adults is to protect our children. Since that did not happen with these children, the least we can do is memorialize them in the hope that such a thing could never happen again. The lesson learned from the Jonestown tragedy is to be careful of who you follow no matter what they promise.”

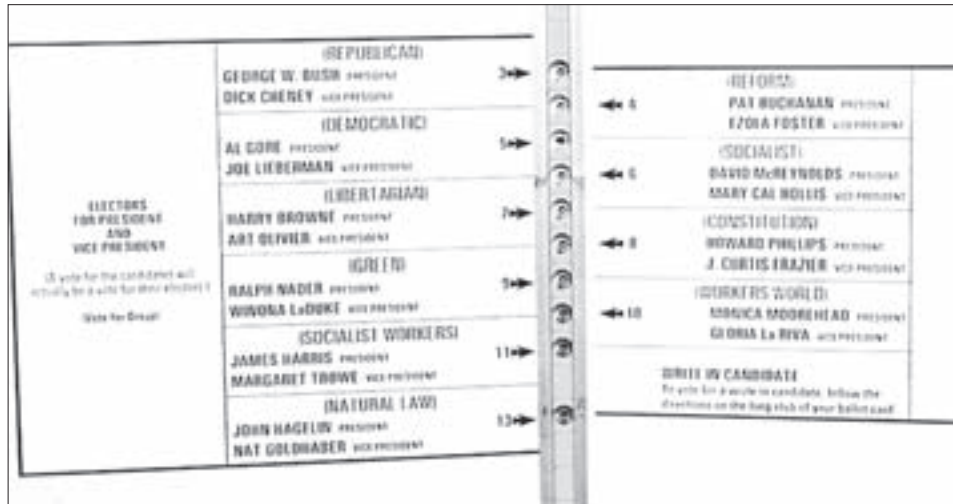
Even as she continues to advocate for a permanent memorial, Norwood says she will advocate for Jones’ name to be removed from Evergreen Cemetery even as she continues to seek a location for a permanent memorial.

She also wants to raise public awareness about the depth of deception by Jones. “The public at large believes that these were a bunch of dumb people who followed Jones and willfully murdered their children. Firstly, they did not know they were in a cult. Nobody gets up and says, ‘Today I’m going to join a cult.’ They joined a church that ended up being a cult.”

She continued, “The survivors that I spoke to that escaped said they could hear the gunshots as they were running through the jungle. I think it’s important that we never forget the innocent children who lost their lives at Jonestown. But even the adults were only there because they believed the lies of Jones.”

For anyone who lost a loved one in Jonestown and would like to share that loved one’s personal story or for more information, please contact the Committee for the Official Jonestown Memorial Services and Cherishing the Children Memorial Wall (Est. 1979) at www.jones-town.org.

The Florida election & the ghost of Gore-Bush



Official ballot for the 2000 United States Presidential election, November 7, 2000, from Palm Beach County, Florida.(Photo source: Wikimedia Commons)

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Democrat Andrew Gillum officially withdrew his concession to Republican former Rep. Ron DeSantis in the Florida governor’s race Saturday.

Gillum’s announcement came after the Secretary of State announced a recount of their race and that of the Florida Senate race between Republican Gov. Rick Scott and Democratic challenger Bill Nelson.

“I am replacing my words of concession with an uncompromised and unapologetic call that we count every single vote,” Gillum said. “We’ve learned in various parts of this state that there are still votes that are outstanding. There’s even still in parts of this state some uncertainty around the total number of votes that are remaining to be cast.”

DeSantis leads Gillum in the unofficial count by about 34,000 votes, with 49.59 percent to the Gillum’s 49.18 percent. An automatic recount occurs when neither candidate reaches 50 percent.

In Nelson’s case, he has continued to close in on Scott since Tuesday night.

What’s more, on Sunday, Florida’s election overseer said there were far too many outstanding ballots that needed counting and he was certain a recount would not be completed by the coming Thursday deadline.

Reportedly, the elections board in Florida’s Miami-Dade County has collected a set of mysterious ballots in the Opa-locka mail facility after Democrats raised concern about the uncounted votes.

The uncounted ballots have emerged as one of many battles over the fiercely contested Florida elections that moved this weekend into a recount phase.

Suzy Trutie, a spokesperson for the county’s supervisor of elections, told CNN there were 266 ballots in the shipment and that the votes will not be counted. Florida law requires all ballots sent by mail to arrive at the election facility by 7 p.m. on Election

day, and these ballots did not meet that standard, Trutie said.

The New York Times noted that the mere mention of Florida these days still evokes nightmares for Democrats who worked closely with Vice President Al Gore 18 years ago. Florida’s 25 electoral votes at the time – and the presidency itself – were up in the air for 36 grueling days while ballots were recounted and the country watched and waited. The drama ended with an indecipherable but wholly consequential Supreme Court decision that put Bush in office.

“It’s inconceivable that 18 years after 2000, Florida still hasn’t developed competencies in terms of counting ballots in an orderly and timely manner,” one former top Gore aide who did not want to be named for “fear of stirring up old ghosts,” told the *Times*.

In Florida, even local journalists are haunted by the Gush-Bore debacle.

“The mother of all recounts was the 2000 presidential election, which gave us all variety of chads – hanging, dimpled and pregnant, butterfly ballots, overvotes and undercounts and chants of Sore Loserman by Brooks Brothers Rioters,” Jeffrey Schweers wrote for the Tallahassee Democrat Newspaper.

The recount battle spawned conspiracy theories, unfounded claims of voter fraud, and lawsuits that went to the Florida Supreme Court to the U.S. Supreme Court and back. It also launched election reforms that have spread across the country.

“So many reforms were implemented here first,” former Leon County Supervisor of Elections Ion Sancho told Schweers. “It’s a great legacy we have here in Florida.”

Florida’s mishandling of that election became a national joke for late night talk show hosts. “It also made Florida the poster child for election reform, a lesson we still haven’t quite got right,” he said.

“Every election since, something seems to go wrong and the final tally gets delayed.”

Skinny's

ELITE BAR & GRILL

Best Wings & Burgers In Jackson!!!!

OPEN FOR LUNCH & CALL IN ORDERS WELCOME

FULL KITCHEN | POOL TABLES | BYOB

PARTY RENTAL SPACE AVAILABLE

SECURITY PROVIDED

DJ BILL50 ON DA 1s & 2s

123 MCTYERE AVE, JACKSON | 601.730.5721

HOURS OF OPERATION: SUN-THURS 10A-10P | FRI-SAT 10A-UNTIL

SKINNY'S ELITE BAR & GRILL SKINNYS ELITE

Thanksgiving is having genuine love for others

By Pastor Simeon R. Green III
Special to The Mississippi Link



It is awfully hard to have compassion for someone if you have wrong attitudes in your heart. How can you show the true compassion of Christ for somebody if you have a wrong attitude against that person. You cannot do it. Oh, you might try, but it will not be genuine. Carrying unforgiveness in your heart will squash true compassion. You need to be careful. Do you have genuine love for the brethren? If you do not have the love of God being shed abroad in your life by the Holy Spirit, you cannot have true compassion. Without the love of God many things will happen around you, but you will be as one who has blinders on. Your brother or your sister may be in need, your neighbor may need help, or someone else that you know may be crying out for help, but you cannot see or hear anyone. You need to check yourself. Are you showing the compassion that Christ showed?

First John 3:17 reads, “But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?” In other words, if you cannot show true compassion, the love of God does not dwell in you at all. Shunning people, putting them off, or avoiding them is not the character of Christ. When you show compassion and help others, it can take many different forms. You can definitely pray for people. Sometimes as saints get older, the enemy works on them and tells them that they cannot do anything for the Lord anymore, but prayer is a big thing. Knowing that your brothers and your sisters are praying for you is like having that big cloud of witnesses right behind you to encourage and strengthen you. Sometimes help could take the form of financial aid, but if you help somebody financially, you should not broadcast it, or tell others about it. That is not how God wants you to work. If God moves on you to help someone, it is for a reason. You may not see

what God is trying to work, but down the road God might reveal how He had a hand in it, how it worked toward that person’s salvation, or how it worked toward good to help that person. Helping someone in need can take the form of supplying someone with clothes. Perhaps you have a closet full of clothes, and you could spare some to help someone in need. Sometimes an individual may just need a hug to show that someone cares. Jude wrote in verses 20-22 of the book of Jude: “But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference.” By having compassion on those who need it, you can make a difference in the lives of those around you. As a Christian, you should want everyone to make it to heaven. Your ultimate goal should be to see everyone around you saved. You should always keep that in mind no

matter what happens in life. The Apostle Paul wrote in Colossians 3:12-15, “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” Happy Thanksgiving! Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joynes Road Church of God, 31 Joynes Road, Hampton VA 23669. He is a member of the National Association of Evangelism Church of God, Anderson, Ind.


P R E S E R V E D Be thankful for what you’ve got

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



“Actions speak louder than words.” We’re all familiar with this phrase and apply it to various personal and professional areas of our lives. In my own life, I often remind myself of the truth in this phrase as I work on showing my appreciation to others. Many of us don’t have a hard time thanking God for what he has given us. It’s very easy to thank God when enjoying blessings that you have prayed in faith to receive. We eagerly share our testimony with others about how good God has been to us. However, God wants more from us than just words of thankfulness. I believe that God wants us to develop a lifestyle of thanksgiving. Like worship, being thankful to God should be a daily part of our lives. Thankfulness is not only about what you receive but the attitude in which you receive it: the attitude of gratitude is what some call it. Just like having a bad attitude changes your perception, so does having an attitude of thankfulness. And that attitude comes from making thankfulness a part of your life...not just an afterthought to a conversation. I try to make it a point to thank people who do things for me. The challenge always comes in how to thank them. One friend is satisfied with a note of thanks, whereas another wants a monetary show of appreciation. Another friend just wants

a good, home-cooked meal every now and then. I know how important it is to say thank you to each one for the big and small favors, however, when I show them with my actions, it means so much more. The way we show God our thankfulness is to live according to his word, love with the unconditional grace that he showers us with and outwardly show our appreciation. We show thanks to God when we share with others. We show thanks to God for his transforming power when we turn away from sin and embrace holiness. It’s not always easy but we should strive to give our time, talent and treasure to others without expecting anything in return. Psalm 28:7 reminds, “The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.” Does your lifestyle of thankfulness to God depend on whether and how he is blessing you? The obvious answer is no.... we should be thankful to God for who he is and not for what he does. When we remind ourselves of that every day, it becomes easier to be thankful. The more we thank (and think of) God, the more thankful we become. Like the lifestyle of worship, the lifestyle of thankfulness requires that we completely give our hearts to him. Shewanda Riley is a Dallas, Texas based author of “Love Hangover: Moving From Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends.” Email her at preserved-bypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.



Moving the Masses Toward the Mission of the Master


1600 Florence Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi 39204
601-355-2870 • 601-355-0760 (Fax)
www.collegehillchurch.org
Chmbo@collegehillchurch.org

COLLEGE HILL
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY
Worship Services
10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 8:45 a.m.

MONDAY
Intercessory Prayer 9:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY
Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.
Classes: Children • Youth • Adult - 7:00p.m.



Michael T. Williams
Pastor



New Horizon Church
INTERNATIONAL
A place of love and victory.

Bishop Ronnie C. Crudup, Sr.
1750 Ellis Avenue • Jackson, MS 39204
OFFICE: 601-371-1427 • FAX: 601-371-8282
www.nhcms.org


SUNDAY
8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Services

WEDNESDAY
7:00 p.m. - Bible Class

TV BROADCAST
8:00 a.m. - Channel 14 (Comcast)

Prayer Everyday: 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Crossroads Church of God
Sharing The Love Of Christ With Others



Sunday Morning
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Sch: 10 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service: 11:15 a.m.
(Fellowship following worship service 1st Sundays)

Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Rev. Mark Jackson, Pastor
231-A John Day Road • Off Hwy 16 East • Canton, MS 39046
Church: 601-859-2858

True Light Baptist Church
224 E. Bell Street | Jackson, MS 39202 | Phone: (601) 398-0915

Join Us!
for our **Light Line Prayer Call**
each Wednesday morning at
6:00 a.m. or join us on
Periscope @MarcusCheeks

The Light Line
PRAYER



Rev. Marcus E. Cheeks, Pastor
Small Group Study | 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service | Sundays 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study | Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.

Phone Number: | Access Code:
(218) 339-7800 | 627 6205#
(712) 832-8330 (Alternate Number)
*The call will last only 30 minutes

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir

Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Live Radio Broadcast
WOAD AM 1300 - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



“A Church Preparing for a Home Not Built by Man”

New Bethel M. B. Church • 450 Culberston Ave. • Jackson, MS 39209
601-969-3481/969-3482 • Fax # 601-969-1957 • E-Mail: Serenitynbc@aol.com

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

The Mississippi Link

For more information please call: 601-896-0084
or e-mail jlinkads@bellsouth.net

Our political realignment

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney Newswire



Nancy Pelosi laid out clearly what Democrats must do. Watching her handle a press conference was such a contrast after seeing the angry, silly, untruthful, bragging, disrespectful press conference by #45. What a relief it is to have a potential speaker stand up to #45—and have the power to block some of his childish antics.

Obviously, my heart was broken when it became apparent that we would not be able to celebrate the election of Mayor Andrew Gillum or Stacy Abrams for governor or Beto O'Rourke for the U.S. Senate. Those results hardened the bitter memories of the voter suppression, racial hatred and overtly racist acts I experienced in my own run for Congress in deeply red Louisiana. Sadly, a majority of this racism came from my own party.

I upset the image. I was both a woman and black, and white Democrats had not seen such a candidate before. Louisiana was still firmly in the grip of the "Old South" mentality. And, as James Baldwin said, "Segregation may be practically gone, but the funeral is still going on."

During this campaign, the spirit of racial animus was resurrected in full force. In Florida and Georgia high quality Democratic candidates were defeated by those who placed their delusional racist reasoning over their own interests and the interests of those they claim to love. In Beto's case, the racists thought he might actually help the underserved.

Now, let's talk about the good stuff. Democrats regained the House of Representatives. People, who are inclined to support our community, won many local elections.

Though not truly complete, the efforts of many women were rewarded with victory. More than 100 women were elected. Among them, 3 African Americans, 2 Muslims, 2 Native Americans, and a Palestinian woman. Now that women know we can win, future victories are assured.

It's a shame that instead of welcoming diversity, many have gone out of their way to reject it – some in a violent way. We've seen white males in horrendous acts over the past few weeks. They've killed 11 innocent worshippers in a Pittsburgh synagogue and sent shockwaves of fear through that community and the nation; 2 innocent people fell victim in a yoga studio in Florida; and 2 innocent black people were gunned-down at a Kentucky grocery store. This very same indifference to justice and honor was mirrored by the Secretary of State who was sufficiently arrogant as to try to sell us the idea he could fairly and impartially manage an election in which he was a principal. Oh, how they try to stop our progress.

Despite these inexcusable infractions and the fact that our preferred candidates did not win, we must hold to the belief that the arch of the pendulum swings toward justice. Horrible acts of domestic terrorism and #45's immoral distortion of our national character will not overshadow the insight, courage and bravery of those citizens who work unceasingly for the goal of perfecting our union.

Florida offered us little to cheer about in recent elections, but its voters have offered a ray of hope for the future. They approved the restoration of voting rights to felons who have paid their debt to society. In the midst of chaos, we continue the struggle to bring about equal justice for all. We must be willing to continue, because we're not there yet. Perhaps this minor political realignment will start the process of moving us from the chaos wrought by #45 and some of his followers to a more perfect national coexistence.

E. Faye Williams, Esq. is national president of the National Congress of Black Women, Inc. (www.nationalcongressbw.org-202/678-6788). She also hosts "Wake Up and Stay Woke" on WPFW-FM 89.3 radio in Washington, D.C.

Democrats need a plan that goes beyond responding to Trump's outrage of the day

By Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr.
Founder and President of
Rainbow PUSH Coalition



With majority control in the House of Representatives, Democrats have an enormous opportunity – and face a distinct peril. The opportunity is to lay out in hearings and in legislation a long-overdue change agenda for America. The peril is they'll get caught responding to President Trump's outrage a day, focus on pursuing his corruption, his taxes, his payoffs, his fulminations and unending lies. The latter fixates the media. The former serves the American people.

No doubt, Democrats have to defend the democracy, ensure that Trump is not able to obstruct the investigation of Russian interference. Democrats, however, have to walk and chew gum at the same time, and that requires laying down a clear agenda for change.

The needs for reform are apparent. Democrats gained popular favor running on extending and defending

health care and on democracy reform, including reviving the Voting Rights Act, curbing big money in politics, automatic voter registration, ending gerrymandering and a rollback of the voter suppression techniques that have spread across the country.

The reform manifesto is far broader than that. Democrats should stand for raising worker wages – a \$15 minimum wage, mandatory overtime for those earning \$70,000 or less, labor law reform to protect workers' right to organize. A major investment in a Green New Deal, generating good jobs while moving rapidly to meet the threat posed by catastrophic climate change and modernizing our decrepit infrastructure, needs to be detailed and pushed. Student loan debt continues to hit new records, even though enrollment in colleges has dropped.

A good public education from pre-K through college or advanced training should be available to every child in America. Democrats need a plan for reviving the impoverished ghettos and barrios of urban America and the devastated small towns and red-lined regions of rural America. Simple

steps for building equal justice for all are also needed.

Trump campaigned by rousing fears of a fake "invasion" of immigrants, yet most Americans continue to believe immigrants are more beneficial to America than costly. Comprehensive immigration reform should be on the table, with the first easy steps to protect the DACA children – the children of undocumented workers raised here who know no other country – and to end the grotesque policy of putting babies in cages separated from their parents. Criminal justice reform there was once a bipartisan accord on ending imprisonment of non-violent offenders and on reforming discriminatory police practices – is long overdue.

The repeated mass shootings should, at the very least, allow the revival of the ban on the sale of semi-automatic assault weapons that were designed for military use. Americans elected Trump to shake things up, after he promised that he would be the champion of working people. Then he larded tax cuts on the rich, creating deficits that Republicans use to justify cuts in Social Security and Medicare.

He turned his administration over to Wall Street executives and corporate lobbyists. They did not deregulate, then re-rigged the rules to favor their entrenched interests. With fires and floods wracking America, Trump cast doubt on the overwhelming scientific consensus that climate change is caused by humans. With mass shootings horrifying the nation, Trump sided with the gun lobby to block reforms.

With wages still stagnant, Trump opposed lifting the minimum wage and his Supreme Court nominee provided the deciding vote to gut unions for teachers, nurses, police officers and other public employees. Americans did not elect Democrats to harass Donald Trump personally. They elected them to hold his administration accountable to law and to push for reforms that will address the challenges they face in their lives.

Yes, Democratic reforms will likely be blocked by a Republican Senate or vetoed by the president. But they can show Americans that there is an alternative, if only Trump and the Republican Senate would get out of the way.

The president and the press: Unhinged attacks are repulsive

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



A cursory look at the win-loss column after last week's mid-term elections suggests that nobody left the table empty-handed. Democrats gained control of the House of Representatives, Republican's expanded their control of the Senate, hundreds of state legislative seats flipped from Democratic to Republican, and Democrats gained gubernatorial, attorney general, and other key positions.

But both democracy and the truth took a hit during the midterms, when the President of the United States obfuscated, prevaricated, and just plain lied every chance he got. And then he had the nerve to say he tells the truth "when he can," which really means he tells the truth only when it serves him. During the midterm campaign, 45 notably attacked Democratic opponents any way he could, often with the vilest of lies. African-American political candidates, and especially Stacey Abrams (Georgia) and Andrew Gillum (Florida) were the focus of his ire.

While 45 counts the midterm election as a victory, he was so testily obnoxious in the press conference the

day after the election that it is clear that he felt the loss.

And when a bully is beaten, he lashes out. CNN's Jim Acosta was the victim of his ire. Because he was persistent in asking a question, he was falsely accused of putting his hands on someone, and his White House press pass was revoked. At the same press conference, the so-called leader of the free world was rudely dismissive to American Urban Radio's star reporter, April Ryan, repeatedly telling her to "sit down." Then, on November 9, he attacked Ryan, calling her a "loser" and saying that she "doesn't know what the hell she is doing." He said he might consider yanking her press credentials.

The president is on a roll when it comes to black women in the press. He told CNN's Abby Phillips that she "always asks stupid questions" when she asked him whether he elevated Matt Whitaker to acting attorney general because he will impede the Mueller investigation. Stupid is the perfect way to describe a president who does not even know how to use Google search to figure out that his pick to replace Jeff Sessions is biased against an investigation he is now charged with supervising.

Phillips, a consummate and smooth professional, surely understands that

she is in good company. Trump loves to attack black women, especially those who oppose him (like Maxine Waters) for their intellectual acuity.

At the same press conference where he melted down on Acosta, the president also attacked PBS White House correspondent Yamiche Alcindor, describing a question she asked him about the term "nationalist" as a "racist question." Alcindor, who says she has interviewed several white supremacists that are "excited" by their leader, asked a perfectly legitimate question of the president who has been stoking racial fires since he announced his candidacy. In attacking both the questioner and the question, 45 again showed his biases and his hostility both to the press and to some of the individuals who cover him.

No president enjoys intense press scrutiny, especially when things are not going his way. But no president has been more rude, dismissive and offensive toward the press. No press secretary has been more rude and obnoxious than Sarah Huckabee Sanders. And none has attempted to curtail press freedoms with the vitriol that Trump has.

Trump says he will pull the press credential of any member of the press who is not "respectful" to him. In his tiny mind, disrespect is the same as

merely asking difficult or uncomfortable questions. He and Sanders would undoubtedly feel better if there were no press questions, just syncopated fawning.

I don't expect decency from the president, but I am concerned that the press corps has not been more strongly supportive of their colleagues. What if, for just one day, every member of the press began her question with, "I'm asking this in the name of Jim Acosta?" What if they started a question with, "Let me say that my colleague April Ryan is not a loser," this administration would get some sense of press solidarity. Trump attacks because he can attack and because few are willing to stand up to him.

The President's hostility toward the press is bad enough. His particular antipathy toward African Americans is even worse. Who will stand up for April Ryan, Abby Phillips and Yamiche Alcindor? Where, by the way, are the women of the #MeToo movement when black women are being attacked?

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available via www.amazon.com for booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visitwww.juliannemalveaux.com

Deep south states take a long-overdue step out of the Jim Crow past

By Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League



"Today it is perfectly legal to discriminate against criminals in nearly all the ways that it was once legal to discriminate against African Americans. Once you're labeled a felon, the old forms of discrimination – employment discrimination, housing discrimination, denial of the right to vote, denial of educational opportunity, denial of food stamps and other public benefits, and exclusion from jury service – are suddenly legal. As a criminal, you have scarcely more rights, and arguably less respect, than a black man living in Alabama at the height of Jim Crow. We have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it." – Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*

The Urban League Movement congratulates two states in the Deep South that took a step out of the dark Jim Crow past by passing major criminal

justice reforms on Election Day.

In Louisiana, voters overwhelmingly approved an amendment to the state constitution that will require unanimous jury verdicts to convict on felony charges. Until now, Louisiana was one of only two states, along with Oregon, that allowed non-unanimous jury verdicts for felonies, and only Louisiana allowed them for murder.

And more than a million previously incarcerated Floridians have had their voting rights restored. Florida was one of 13 states that bar those convicted of felonies from voting even after their sentences have been served.

Both laws had their roots in the post-Reconstruction-era crackdown on civil rights for black Americans, more than 150 years in the past. They have rightly been consigned to the ash heap of history.

Drafters of the 1898 Louisiana state constitution aimed to "perpetuate the supremacy of the Anglo-Saxon race in Louisiana," scrubbing from the rolls nearly all 130,000 black registered voters. By law, they couldn't simply ban black people from voting or serv-

ing on juries, so they devised a system that would invalidate the votes of the few African Americans who might make it on to a jury – the votes of only nine of 12 jurors would be counted.

In its 1972 Apodaca v. Oregon ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court validated non-unanimous verdicts in state courts – but not federal ones. At a Constitutional convention the next year Louisiana lawmakers changed the number of jurors required for a verdict from nine to 10.

The law's racist intent carried into the present day. Roughly a third of Louisianans are black, but two-thirds of state prisoners and three-fourths of inmates serving life without parole are black.

An analysis of convictions by *The Advocate* newspaper found that 40 percent of all convictions in Louisiana came over the objections of one or two holdouts. When the defendant was black, the proportion went up to 43 percent, versus 33 percent for white defendants. In three-quarters cases analyzed, the defendant was black.

Those convicted of felonies have

been banned from voting in Florida since the ratification of a new state constitution in 1872. According to Florida lore, lawmaker WJ Purman reportedly boasted he had prevented the state from being "n***erized." At the time, so-called "black codes" – laws that restricted black people's right to own property, conduct business, buy and lease land and move freely through public spaces – criminalized a staggering proportion of the African-American population.

Within a few years of the end of Reconstruction, an estimated 95 percent of convicts in the south were black. A century and a half later felony disenfranchisement has left more than one in five black Floridians unable to vote.

Voters in Louisiana and Florida recognized not only the racism, but anti-American spirit inherent in non-unanimous jury verdicts and felony disenfranchisement, and were eager to bring their states' laws into line with most of the rest of the country. We call on other states with similar laws remaining on the books to follow their example.

Marijuana-derived drug for epilepsy in children in clinical trial

The Mississippi Link Newswire

A clinical trial of a new drug derived from marijuana to treat seizures in children has received approval, and patients are receiving the medication, according to the physician directing it.

Following a rigorous review process, the trial is being conducted by the University of Mississippi Medical Center and the UM School of Pharmacy on UMMC’s Jackson campus.

The study’s focus is to determine the safety and tolerability of the medication for children with severe epilepsy whose seizures are uncontrolled by other means, said principal investigator Dr. Brad Ingram, UMMC associate professor of pediatric neurology and director of the Pediatric Comprehensive Epilepsy Program.

Ingram described the six-month trial, which involves 10 patients, as “compassionate care” for “the sickest of the sick.”

“These are patients whose lives have been devastated by their epilepsy, even up to their abilities to walk, talk or participate in simple activities of self care,” Ingram said.

Required approvals were obtained from the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Food and Drug Administration. The clinically tested investigational drug product is an oral cannabidiol, CBD for short, derived from marijuana grown at the UM School of Pharmacy’s National Center for Natural Products Research.

Dr. Richard Summers, UMMC associate vice chancellor for research, said, “Approval of a first phase clinical trial of cannabidiol oil in patients with seizures that are not controlled with conventional treatments is a milestone for our translational research efforts at UMMC. In this study, extracts of a plant grown on the Oxford campus are being practically translated into a potential new therapy for patients who suffer a debilitating illness.”

The oral solution consists of a CBD extract manufactured at NCNPR’s Coy Waller Laboratory, home of the Marijuana Project led by Drs. Mahmoud ElSohly and Ikhlas Khan. The extract, a Schedule I controlled

substance, is prepared from a special type of marijuana that has a high concentration of CBD and a low concentration of THC, the psychotropic element of marijuana.

Once the extract is manufactured, packaged and checked to ensure it meets all quality control specifications, it is transferred to the pharmacy at UMMC’s main campus in Jackson. There, the extract is diluted with pharmaceutical-grade sesame seed oil to achieve the proper dosage concentration for administration to patients.

Dr. Larry Walker, director emeritus of the NCNPR, was instrumental in planning the study and in arranging to provide the study materials to UMMC through the National Institute on Drug Abuse’s drug supply program, for which NCNPR is the sole supplier of marijuana and cannabis extract.

Walker said the partnership between NCNPR and UMMC opens the door to progress. “Dr. ElSohly’s team at the NCNPR has worked diligently on the product development, manufacturing, regulatory clearances and other hurdles. This promises to be a milestone that could greatly stimulate the national research agenda for developing FDA-approved cannabis-derived drug products.”

This trial will allow a more rigorous scientific, quality-controlled study of the plant’s medicinal use because of the federally regulated consistency of the product, officials said.

The possibility of organizing this clinical trial came about in 2014, when the Mississippi Legislature passed a law allowing the Medical Center to dispense CBD oil for the treatment of epileptic seizures in children.

“UMMC is the site for so many firsts,” said Sen. Josh Harkins, R-Flowood, who authored the bill. “We’d like to see this first, a trial of an investigational new drug product developed at the University of Mississippi and tested at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, result in improved treatments for children with epilepsy.”

Said Ingram: “If we can improve, even in a small way, the life of a child with severe epilepsy, then isn’t it worth a try?”

Michelle Obama’s book Revelation of In-Vitro Fertilization

By Glenn Ellis
TriceEdneyWire.com



In her just-released book, Michelle Obama made public, for the first time, that she used In-Vitro Fertilization

(IVF) to have both her daughters. Obama, at 34-years old, experienced something many women and couples have a hard time discussing: infertility.

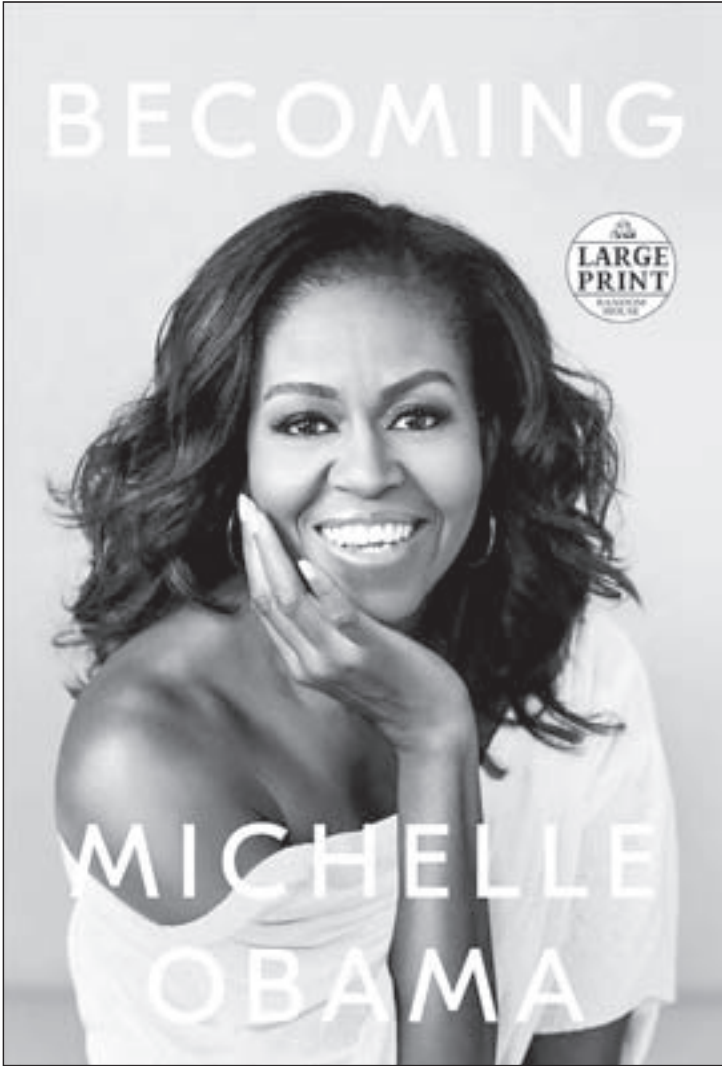
The news, TV, internet, magazines, newspapers and movie stars have popularized infertility and fertility therapy. They have also popularized having babies over the age of 40. Celebrities are now more open about the use of fertility therapy, donor eggs and donor sperm to conceive. Like it or not, celebrities have made it less shameful to experience infertility.

About 10 percent of U.S. women between 15 and 44 years old (or 6.1 million) have difficulty getting or staying pregnant, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In about 8 percent of couples’ infertility, the problem lies with the male, whereas in 35 percent of infertility cases, it is both the male and female.

IVF is a common infertility treatment. During the procedure, a fertility doctor takes the eggs from the ovaries using a small needle and fertilizes them with sperm in a specialized lab. After fertilization happens, the eggs develop into embryos. Three to five days later, the specialist reimplants the embryos back into the uterus.

However, in some cases, the eggs of a “donor” are required for many couples to have children. In these cases, the eggs of a donor are used to fertilize the sperm of the father, and then reinserted in the uterus of the mother. What we don’t know at this time is whether Michelle used her own eggs, or they were the eggs of a third-party donor.

There are many ethical issues with egg donation to consider. Concern has also been raised about the long-term health of children born through IVF. Otherwise healthy children conceived by IVF may have higher blood pressure, adiposity, glucose levels, and more generalized vascular dysfunction than children



conceived naturally.

Unlike the process men undergo to donate sperm, the preparation and procedure involved in egg donation require a longer-term commitment – a woman’s body is hormonally altered through the process, and she undergoes surgery.

On average, nationally, a “fresh” IVF cycle costs \$12,000, before medications, which typically run another \$3,000 to \$5,000. In a “fresh” IVF cycle, eggs are harvested, and after a closely monitored period of receiving ovulation-inducing medications and then “mixed” with fresh sperm. One or two of the best-looking of the resulting embryos are then transferred to the uterus via a thin catheter.

Most donors produce somewhere between 10 and 25 eggs, which are then sucked out of their fallopian tube with a hollow needle inserted through the vagina.

Though many egg donors derive great satisfaction from knowing that they helped someone start a family, the price of eggs has soared in recent years as demand has increased, and the sizable payments raise controversy.

Many feel that the real issue is whether the money can cloud someone’s judgment. Ethicists, and some women’s health advocates, worry that lucrative payments are enticing young women with credit-card debt and steep tuition bills to sell eggs without seriously evaluating the risks.

Every one of those eggs would become the property of the couple who choose their donor. Many women donate eggs for the money; compensation is commonly around \$5,000 to \$10,000, though it can range higher for those with the most “desirable traits.” Many countries, including Canada and Britain, prohibit payments to egg donors.

The process of egg extraction is time consuming, and it is not comfortable. For some women, it can be painful. A woman first has to take medications to stop her menstrual cycle and then daily hormone injections for several weeks to stimulate her ovaries to produce a crop of mature eggs at once.

The drugs may cause bloating, weight gain, moodiness and irritability, and there is a risk of a rare condition called ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome that

can cause life-threatening complications, blood clots and kidney failure.

The egg extraction itself is a surgical procedure in which a thin needle is inserted through the vagina into the ovary to retrieve the eggs and liquid from the follicles. Risks include adverse responses to anesthesia, infection, bleeding or the inadvertent puncture of an organ.

No one knows the long-term risks to egg donors – if, in fact, there are any. Some women say they experienced a plethora of health problems after donations, including ovarian cysts and endometriosis; a painful inflammatory disease that can cause infertility.

But there has been little research on the long-term outcomes for egg donors, who are often recruited on college campuses with the promise of tens of thousands in payments if they have particularly desirable characteristics, such as green eyes or high-level tennis skills or Ivy League degrees.

Why does Obama’s revelation matter? Infertility affects about 14-20 percent of couples nowadays. In modern societies the average maternal age during the first pregnancy is getting higher, mainly for sociological reasons. As these factors accumulate, the age of couples seeking help in assisted reproduction increases.

Remember, I’m not a doctor. I just sound like one. Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible!

The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. The reader should always consult his or her healthcare provider to determine the appropriateness of the information for their own situation or if they have any questions regarding a medical condition or treatment plan.

Glenn Ellis, is a health advocacy communications specialist. He is the author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. He is a health columnist and radio commentator who lectures, nationally and internationally on health related topics. For more good health information listen to Glenn, on radio in Philadelphia; Boston; Shreveport; Los Angeles; and Birmingham., or visit: www.glennellis.com

American Heart Association and American Diabetes Association launch landmark health initiative – Know Diabetes by Heart™

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death and a major cause of heart attacks, strokes and disability for people living with type 2 diabetes – only half recognize their risk

Nov. 12, 2018 – The American Heart Association (AHA) and the American Diabetes Association (ADA) have launched a new, multi-year awareness and education initiative, Know Diabetes by Heart™, to reduce cardiovascular deaths, heart attacks and strokes in people living with type 2 diabetes.

People living with diabetes are two times more likely to develop and die from cardiovascular disease. Yet in a recent survey of people age 45 and older with type 2 diabetes conducted online by The Harris Poll, only about half recognize their risk or have discussed their risk for heart attacks or strokes with their health care providers.

“The public health impact and growing threat of diabetes and cardiovascular disease are too

significant for any one organization to tackle alone,” said Nancy A. Brown, chief executive officer of the American Heart Association. “Our collaboration with the American Diabetes Association and industry supporters is crucial for developing meaningful solutions and offering practical tools and information that can help those living with type 2 diabetes find inspiration and take action toward improving their health and decreasing their risk of heart disease.”

With support from founding sponsors, the Boehringer Ingelheim and Eli Lilly and Company Diabetes Alliance and Novo Nordisk, and national sponsor Sanofi, the Know Diabetes by Heart initiative provides tools and resources for people living with type 2 diabetes to learn how to reduce their risk of cardiovascular disease.

Participants in focus groups conducted by the ADA and the AHA in September revealed that many people living with type 2 diabetes experience distress relat-

ed to the day-to-day management of this chronic disease. They also reported feelings of hopelessness, which can make them less likely to take action to reduce the long-term complications of diabetes. More in-depth research is underway to better understand the populations at highest risk.

“As someone living with type 2 diabetes, I empathize with the denial, worry, fear and even frustration that can accompany a diabetes diagnosis and the daily management of the disease,” said Tracey D. Brown, chief executive officer of the American Diabetes Association. “It’s critical that we wake people up to the realities and deadly complications of diabetes, especially heart disease. Reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease is vital to improving the quality and length of life for every individual living with type 2 diabetes. We are proud to collaborate with the American Heart Association and our industry partners to bring this initiative to life through every avenue possible.”

For people over age 60 living with type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease shortens life expectancy by an average of 12 years. Focus group participants said they are motivated to make behavioral changes by their desire to fulfill family responsibilities, and through strong support and connections to family, friends and a community of people who understand what they are going through.

Know Diabetes by Heart is designed to educate, empower and motivate people with type 2 diabetes to make practical, step-by-step changes to improve their health and decrease their risks of cardiovascular disease, heart attacks and strokes. The initiative also leverages the latest evidence-based guidelines to support health care providers regarding the link between diabetes and cardiovascular disease, and includes quality improvement efforts across clinics, practices and hospitals caring for people with type 2 diabetes.

Individuals living with type 2

diabetes can take advantage of the following free Know Diabetes by Heart resources and upcoming events:

Living with Type 2 Diabetes Program – This 12-month program offers six digital, printable “journeys” to improve understanding of how to live well with type 2 diabetes, including reducing the risk of heart attacks and strokes. The program also includes a monthly e-newsletter featuring practical tips, stories and resources, as well as six free issues of Diabetes Forecast®, the ADA’s consumer magazine, and access to the ADA’s online community of local events.

For more information, people with type 2 diabetes can visit KnowDiabetesbyHeart.org to take a quiz to understand their level of risk for cardiovascular disease, heart attacks and strokes and download a discussion guide with the top three questions and conversation-starters for their next appointment with their doctor. Additional Know Diabetes by Heart campaign tools, events

and resources will be unveiled in 2019.

Research was conducted online between September 18-27, 2018 by The Harris Poll on behalf of the American Heart Association and the American Diabetes Association, among 1,050 U.S. adults 45+ who have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes by a health care provider. Figures for age by gender, income, education, race/ethnicity, region, size of household, marital status and employment status were weighted where necessary to align with actual proportions in the population.

The focus group research was conducted online between August 27-31, 2018, by Edelman Intelligence on behalf of the American Heart Association and the American Diabetes Association, among U.S. adults 45+ who have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes by a health care provider. Respondents were divided among four focus groups, including two groups representative of the general population and two minority-specific groups.

LEGAL		LEGAL					
<p>CITY OF JACKSON PUBLIC NOTICE ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE (AI)</p> <p>The City of Jackson's Office of Housing and Community Development invites you to attend your choice of two (2) community engagement public meetings on the regional Assessment of Fair Housing.</p> <p>The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) is a legal requirement that the City must complete in order to continue receiving federal housing and community development funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Specifically, the AI is an analysis undertaken pursuant to 24 CFR 5.150 that includes an analysis of fair housing data, an assessment of fair housing issues and contributing factors, and an identification of fair housing priorities and goals specific to the city of Jackson. The primary purpose of the Public Meetings is to offer an opportunity for citizens to provide input during the development process of the AI.</p> <p>The AI is being done as part of a statewide collaboration that includes the Mississippi Home Corporation, Mississippi Development Authority, 50 local and regional Public Housing Authorities and the cities of Biloxi, Gulfport, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Moss Point and Pascagoula.</p> <p>The City encourages citizens, housing providers, housing developers, housing services, public service providers,</p>	<p>employers, community leaders, advocacy groups, public officials and persons with special needs to participate in this important community engagement process.</p> <p>The meetings will be held at the following locations:</p> <table><tr><td>Monday, December 3, 2018 - 10:00 a.m. Monday, December 3, 2018 - 6:30 p.m. Jackson Medical Mall Foundation Chambers Community Meeting Room Street 350 W. Woodrow Wilson Dr. 39205 Jackson, MS 39213</td><td>Monday, December 3, 2018 - 10:00 a.m. Monday, December 3, 2018 - 6:30 p.m. City Hall Council 219 S. President Jackson, MS 39205 Jackson, MS 39213</td></tr></table> <p>Both locations are wheelchair accessible. Access to the buildings and special parking are available at the entrances. Persons with disabilities who plan to attend these meetings and who may need auxiliary aids or services such as interpreters for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, readers or large print for visually impaired, are requested to contact the City's Office of Housing and Community Development at (601) 960-2155. BRAILLE IS NOT AVAILABLE.</p> <p>Also, please take our survey on Fair Housing in your community. https://www.research.net/r/2018MSFairHousingSurvey</p>	Monday, December 3, 2018 - 10:00 a.m. Monday, December 3, 2018 - 6:30 p.m. Jackson Medical Mall Foundation Chambers Community Meeting Room Street 350 W. Woodrow Wilson Dr. 39205 Jackson, MS 39213	Monday, December 3, 2018 - 10:00 a.m. Monday, December 3, 2018 - 6:30 p.m. City Hall Council 219 S. President Jackson, MS 39205 Jackson, MS 39213	<p>REQUEST FOR PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES OF SMITH WILLS STADIUM</p> <p>SECTION I – INTRODUCTION / INVITATION</p> <p>The City of Jackson, Department of Parks and Recreation is seeking assistance from management firms or individuals desiring to provide professional management services at a City of Jackson facility, known as Smith Wills Stadium, located at 1200 Lakeland Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39216. Professional management firms or individuals that may be interested in contracting with the City of Jackson for such services are hereby invited to submit a response to this request in accordance with the requirements set forth herein.</p> <p>Sealed Professional Management Service packets will be received by the City Clerk of Jackson, Mississippi, at 219 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 or at the Post Office Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205, until 3:30 p.m., local time, Tuesday, January 8, 2019.</p> <p>The bid advertises November 8, 2018 through December 20, 2018. Bids will continue to be accepted and must be stamped by the City Clerk, prior to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2019.</p> <p>This Request For Professional Management Services is also being posted on the Central Bidding website at: https://www.centralauctionhouse.com/main.php. You</p>	<p>may submit your bids electronically through this provider. Packets may also be secured from the Department of Parks and Recreation, 1000 Metro Center, Suite 104, Jackson, Mississippi, 39209, telephone number (601) 960-0471.</p> <p>A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, November 28, 2018, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., local time, in the City of Jackson Metro Conference Room, located at 1000 Metro Center, Suite 104, Jackson, MS 39209. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.</p> <p>Professional Management Service packets shall be submitted in triplicate, sealed and deposited with the City of Jackson's City Clerk prior to the hour and date designated above. Each bidder shall write its certificate of responsibility number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing its proposal.</p> <p>The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all Professional Management Service packets and to waive any and all informalities.</p> <table><tr><td>Ison B. Harris, Jr., Director Blaine, Department of Parks and Recreation Administrative Officer (CAO)</td><td>Dr. Robert Chief Administrative Office of the</td></tr></table> <p>Mayor</p> <p>11/8/2018, 11/15/2018, 11/22/2018, 11/29/2018, 12/6/2018, 12/13/2018, 12/20/2018</p>	Ison B. Harris, Jr., Director Blaine, Department of Parks and Recreation Administrative Officer (CAO)	Dr. Robert Chief Administrative Office of the
Monday, December 3, 2018 - 10:00 a.m. Monday, December 3, 2018 - 6:30 p.m. Jackson Medical Mall Foundation Chambers Community Meeting Room Street 350 W. Woodrow Wilson Dr. 39205 Jackson, MS 39213	Monday, December 3, 2018 - 10:00 a.m. Monday, December 3, 2018 - 6:30 p.m. City Hall Council 219 S. President Jackson, MS 39205 Jackson, MS 39213						
Ison B. Harris, Jr., Director Blaine, Department of Parks and Recreation Administrative Officer (CAO)	Dr. Robert Chief Administrative Office of the						
11/15/2018							

Office
Space
for Rent

Garrett
Enterprises
Building

(Near Jackson Medical Mall)

2659 Livingston Road
Jackson, MS 39213

2500 Square Feet

Call: 601-209-9199

Enter To **WIN**
\$3,000



Newspaper sponsored shopping survey. No purchase necessary.



Enter to win now, go to:
www.pulsepoll.com

Multi-Million Dollar
CHRISTMAS SALE
up to **50% off**



5417 Lakeland Drive • Flowood
www.newtonsjewelry.com

A N Y T I M E
O N L I N E

Breaking News

Streaming Videos

Interactive Blogs



www.mississippilink.com

PICK UP
THE MISSISSIPPI LINK
AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

JACKSON

BULLY'S RESTAURANT
3118 Livingston Road
CASH & CARRY
Capitol Street and Monument Street
CITY HALL
219 S President St
GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX
2659 Livingston Road
DOLLAR GENERAL
3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
2030 N Siwell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
4331 Highway 80W
DOLLAR GENERAL
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
304 Briarwood Dr
DOLLAR GENERAL
2855 McDowell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
104 Terry Rd
JJ MOBIL
Northside Drive and Flagg Chapel
LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST
2325 Livingston Rd.
MCDADE'S MARKET
Northside Drive
MCDADE'S MARKET #2
653 Duling Avenue
PICADILLY CAFETERIA
Jackson Medical Mall
350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue
SHELL FOOD MART
5492 Watkins Drive

SPORTS MEDICINE

Fortification and I-55
MURPHY USA
6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)
REVELL ACE HARDWARE
Terry Rd (South Jackson)
WALGREENS
380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave

CANTON

A & I
716 Roby Street - Canton, MS
B & B
702 West North Street - Canton, MS
BOUTIQUE STORE
3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS
BULLY'S STORE
Church Street - Canton, MS
COMMUNITY MART
743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS
FRYER LANE GROCERY
Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS
HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN
285 Peace Street - Canton, MS
JOE'S SANDWICH & GROCERY
507 Church Street - Canton, MS
K & K ONE STOP
110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS
LACY'S INSURANCE
421 Peace Street - Canton, MS
SOUL SET BARBER SHOP
257 Peace Street - Canton, MS
TRAILER PARK GROCERY
22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

BYRAM

DOLLAR GENERAL
125 Swinging Bridge Dr.
HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE
5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE

5777 Terry Road
CITY HALL
Terry Road

CLINTON

DOLLAR GENERAL
807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

TERRY

SERVICE STATION
at Exit 78
CITY HALL
West Cunningham Avenue

RAYMOND

HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE WELCOME CENTER
505 E. Main Street
SUNFLOWER GROCERY
122 Old Port Gibson Street, Raymond, MS
LOVE FOOD MART
120 E. Main Street, Raymond, MS
RAYMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY
126 W. Court Street, Raymond, MS
RAYMOND CITY HALL
110 Courtyard Square, Raymond
RAYMOND COURTHOUSE

UTICA

HUBBARD'S TRUCK STOP
Mississippi Hwy 18
PITT STOP
101 Hwy 18 & 27

BOLTON

BOLTON LIBRARY
BOLTON CITY HALL

MCAN

Mississippi Classified Advertising Network

To place your statewide classified ad order, call MS Press Services at 601-981-3060

For Sale

CHURCH FURNITURE: Does your church need pews, pulpit set, baptistery, steeple, windows? Big Sale on new cushioned pews and pew chairs. 1-800-231-8360. www.pews1.com

Insurance

DENTAL INSURANCE. Call Physicians Mutual Insurance Company for details. NOT just a discount plan, REAL coverage for 350 procedures. 855-397-7045 or <http://www.dental50plus.com/mspress>. Ad# 6118

FREE AUTO INSURANCE QUOTES. See how much you can save! High risk SR22 driver policies available! Call 844-714-2407

FREE MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT QUOTES! Top providers. Excellent coverage. Call for a no obligation quote to see how much you can save. Toll free: 855-400-8352

Medical Supplies

ATTENTION DIABETICS! Get Your Diabetic Testing Supplies at Little to No Cost and Have Them Delivered Right to Your Door. Shipping is FREE! We accept most insurance and Medicare Part D. Call Now! 877-581-6495

DO YOU USE A CPAP MACHINE for sleep apnea? Get your FDA approved CPAP machine and supplies at little or no cost! Free sleep supplement and sleep guide included! Call 855-234-0202! (Mon-Fri)

OXYGEN - Anytime. Anywhere. No tanks to refill. No deliveries. The All-New Inogen One G4 is only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved! FREE info kit: 888-964-0893

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Pills SPECIAL \$99.00 FREE Shipping! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW! 844-821-3242

Miscellaneous

DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY. Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details. 855-400-8263

Services-General

DIRECTV CHOICE All-included Package! Over 185 Channels! Only \$45/month (for 24 mos.) Call Now - Get NFL Sunday Ticket FREE! Call 1- 855-978-3110. Ask us How To Bundle and Save!

DIRECTV NOW. No Satellite Needed. \$40/month, 65 Channels. Stream Breaking News, Live Events, Sports & On Demand Titles. No Annual Contract. No Commitment. CALL 1-866-616-8331

DISH TV \$59.99 For 190 Channels \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Call 1-877-628-3143

Services-Financial

OVER \$10K IN DEBT? Be debt free in 24 to 48 months. No upfront fees to enroll. A+ BBB rated. Call National Debt Relief 844-719-8928.

SAVE YOUR HOME! Are you behind paying your MORTGAGE? Is the bank threatening foreclosure? CALL Homeowner's Relief Line now for Help! 1-866-833-1513

Services-Medical

A PLACE FOR MOM. The nation's largest senior living referral service. Contact our trusted, local experts today! Our service is FREE/no obligation. CALL 1-877-224-1236

LIFE ALERT. 24/7. One press of a button sends help FAST! Medical, Fire, Burglar. Even if you can't reach a phone! FREE Brochure. CALL 877-824-5591

LOOK!



Place Your Classified Ad
STATEWIDE
In 95 Newspapers!

STATEWIDE RATES:
Up to 25 words.....\$210
1 col. x 2 inch.....\$525
1 col. x 3 inch.....\$785
1 col. x 4 inch.....\$1050

Nationwide Placement Available

To Place Your Ad Order Call:
MS Press Services
601-981-3060

Week of November 11, 2018

Mississippi motorcycle clubs roll into Lexington for a good cause



The Mississippi Link Newswire

All kickstands were up Saturday, Nov. 3, as motorcycle clubs from around the state headed to Lexington for the Community Students Learning Center's (CSLC) First Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) Fund Fest, featuring a motorcycle show and open house.

A major fundraiser, which also included food sales, a gas grill raffle, music and award presentations, the event was coordinated by the dedicated CSLC Advisory Committee. "Words cannot express how grateful we are to the bikers, our advisory committee, donors, community partners, public officials, staff and volunteers for taking time out of their busy schedules to support our children," said CSLC Executive Beulah Greer.

HIPPY – an evidenced-based family support model – helps parents prepare their children for success in school. It works directly with parents of three, four and five year old children in their homes to give them books, activities and skills needed as they serve as their children's first and most important teacher. The program is free to parents. However, the agency or organization is responsible for securing funds to administer it.

"The Community Students Learning Center's HIPPY program is in-line with the board, Henderson and district's early learning or preschool efforts, goals and objectives," said Holmes County Consolidated School District's (HCCSD) Chief of Staff Debra Antoine. Antoine brought greetings on behalf of Superintendent of Schools, James L. Henderson, Ed.D. "Our district reading data suggests preschool has helped move Kindergarten students ahead. Our school with a Pre-K program has higher reading readiness scores than the other schools," Antoine added.

The Honorable Mayor Robin McCrory of Lexington and Holmes County Supervisor Henry Anderson were among public officials who also brought greetings and applauded the CSLC HIPPY program.

Donald "DY" Young, the national president of King Riders Motorcycle Club, felt it was important to get his motorcycle club, along with other clubs and organizations, to come out and do what he says they do best: "community service." "Once I heard about what was going on and read the mission and goals of the CSLC HIPPY program, it was without any doubt or hesitation that my motorcycle club was willing to take the lead and do whatever it takes

to support this wonderful cause," Young said.

His colleague Dell Walls, president of the Brotherhood Motor Club of Batesville, Miss., who also serves CSLC via another program, discovered the needs of the CSLC HIPPY program and began gathering bikers' support after consulting with Young. "This is truly a great program; everyone should support it," she stressed.

A crowd-pleasing highlight during the event was the HIPPY children's recitation of the CSLC Motto and Creed declaring: "I am somebody!" They were thrilled when the bikers announced that they would give them their trophies. The entire event excited them. "Wow, mom! Look at all these bikes; I want to ride," CSLC HIPPY student Ayden Friar yelled.

Young said, "I would strongly encourage the motorcycle community and the community in general [that] if you haven't experienced helping vulnerable children achieve long-term academic success, along with parent-child relationship and parent involvement, please join me in helping with this cause. It is true that it takes a village to raise a child, and I need everyone's help."

Other participating motorcycle clubs included: Big Buck's MC of Itta Bena, Miss.; Motor Mouse MC of Indianola, Miss.; Black Hawk's MC of Tchula, Miss.; Founders MC of Itta Bena, Miss.; King Riders MC of Kosciusko, Miss.; Get It Done Riders of Holmes County, Miss.; Capital City Riders MC of Jackson, Miss.; Hawks MC of Jackson, Miss.; and Flying High MC of Jackson, Miss.

CSLC is also appreciative to its community/collaborative partners – CDI Head Start MS Region, Holmes County Consolidated School District, Capital Wealth Makers, Inc., Top Quality Computer Service, D.J. Tracy Harris, WEM Consulting Group, CSLC Advisory Committee members, Generation FREE – The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi, public officials, CSLC staff, volunteers and others for their participation and in-kind support during the development and success of the First CSLC HIPPY Fund Fest.

The fundraiser for the children is ongoing. Tax-deductible donations may be made to: Community Students Learning Center earmarked HIPPY, 333 Yazoo Street, Lexington, MS 39095. CSLC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

For more information about CSLC's HIPPY early learning program, call 662 834-0905 or email: community93550@bellsouth.net

Smarter energy begins with a smarter power grid.

At Entergy Mississippi, we're committed to providing reliable and affordable power for the next generation. So we're implementing new technologies to modernize the power grid and create a smarter energy future. Advanced Metering Infrastructure, known as AMI, is the first step.

Approved by the Mississippi Public Service Commission in May 2017, AMI is a multi-year investment. We are already planning the IT and network systems to support this technology. Once meters are installed, beginning in 2019, homes and businesses will start seeing these innovative new benefits:

- Customers can view near real-time electricity usage, better manage bills and potentially save energy.
- Outages will be identified more accurately and efficiently.
- Long-term reliability will improve, particularly after challenging weather.
- A foundation will be laid for future new technologies.

Technology remains crucial in advancing Mississippi businesses and communities. Entergy Mississippi is investing in and applying the technology that will power our state for generations to come.

Learn more at energyfuturemississippi.com.



A message from Entergy Mississippi, Inc. ©2018 Entergy Services, LLC All Rights Reserved.

Vote DAVID MCCARTY

COURT OF APPEALS - DISTRICT 4



"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

Proverbs 31:8-9

- Over 10 times more appellate experience than opponent
- 13 years of experience teaching law
- Voted one of the top 50 lawyers in the state by MS Business Journal

WWW.MCCARTYFORJUDGE.COM

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT DAVID MCCARTY

ITALIAN RESTAURANT & BAR
B·R·A·V·O·!

\$11 LUNCH COMBOS

**LUNCH COMBOS AVAILABLE
TUESDAY - FRIDAY**

BRAVOBUZZ.COM | 601.982.8111
4500 I-55 N. SUITE 204, HIGHLAND VILLAGE
JACKSON, MS 39216

FOOD for FINES

Canned goods accepted for
Overdue Fines, 1 can = \$1.00

- ◆ Minimum size of can - 13 ounces
- ◆ Unexpired date visible on can
- ◆ Not dented or rusty.

Food donations will not count towards the
\$10 fee for accounts sent to collection.



Alzheimer's Mississippi Walk4alz Central Missississippi

Participants raise funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Alzheimer's Mississippi brought together hundreds of Jackson area residents in a movement to "Knock Out Alzheimer's" at the annual walk4ALZ walk/ run 5k. Walk4ALZ is more than just a 5k event, it provides participants an opportunity to learn about Alzheimer's disease and how to get involved with advocacy opportunities and support programs and services.

Alzheimer's disease is a brain degenerative disease that currently does not have a cure, but there are things we can do to keep our brains healthy and possibly treat the symptoms of the disease. Recent studies have shown that including walking or running into your lifestyle at least three times a week can improve your brain health. There have even been studies showing that exercise increases brain size and can help reduce risk of some dementias.

The 2018 walk4ALZ was sponsored at the platinum level by Heart of Hospice and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi; silver level by Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance and The MIND Center at UMMC; and bronze level by The Blake at Township and at Flowood and Celia Manley ERA Real Estate Professionals.

Alzheimer's disease is a growing epidemic and the fifth leading cause of death among diseases in Mississippi. As baby boomers age, the number of individuals living with Alzheimer's disease will rapidly escalate, increasing well beyond today's more than 5 million Americans to as many as 16 million by 2050.



U-RENTAL Van Company



- New fleet of vans
- 12 & 15 passenger vans
- Unbeatable prices
- Unlimited miles
- Church / business trips
- Family vacation & more
- Cash or credit cards



3840 ROBINSON ROAD - JACKSON, MS 39209 - PHONE: 601-398-1162



BOOK REVIEW:

“FRIDAY BLACK: STORIES”

BY NANA KWAME ADJEI-BRENYAH

C.2018, MARINER BOOKS

\$14.99 / HIGHER IN CANADA • 194 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

You are the strongest person you know.

You can lift and carry a lot of weight and many burdens, because strength comes from within as well as from muscles. So what are you capable of doing when times get strange? Place yourself in the short stories inside “Friday Black” by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah, and see.

Emmanuel had grown up with a strength his parents nurtured.

They taught him everything they knew about keeping a young black man alive and because of that, Emmanuel rarely presented his “blackness” at the top of a one-to-ten scale. At most, he kept it somewhere near the middle. But in “The Finkelstein 5,” when a white man was acquitted of killing five black kids with a chainsaw, Emmanuel doubted if he was strong enough to keep his blackness at anything less than a “10.”

Anything less than the blunt truth is a bad thing in “The

Era,” and Ben knows it. He was not “optimized” at birth, however, so no matter how truthful he is, he’ll never be as cool as some of the boys in his “HowItWas class.” He’ll never make anyone happy, and that’s fine. He’ll get by because the New Federation makes sure everyone has access to a daily syringe full of Good. Ben gets his at school every day. He wishes he could get more. He’s in danger of becoming a “shoe-looker” and it will take strength to avoid that.

The gates in front of the store

were holding – for now.

It’s Black Friday and as customers press forward, there’s a stampede and a little girl falls. Lance is working clean-up, and he tries to get her body out of the way but the child’s mother grabs the dazed girl first, and heads for any bargain she can find. Whatever. The narrator of “Friday Black” doesn’t care. Bodies will pile up even higher before the day’s over and shoppers are gone home. In the meantime, he’ll sell more coats than anybody else; he’ll see more drooling, half-crazed

buyers than anyone; and he’ll win the annual contest.

The strongest always does...

Picking up “Friday Black” won’t be difficult. Opening it is a piece of cake. It doesn’t weigh much at all, but the stories inside are heavy, so beware.

In a dozen short tales and just under 200 pages, Adjei-Brenyah takes readers on quite the ride. It starts with a tale that, if you squint, isn’t so very implausible at all, and moves toward the dystopian before slyly commenting on greed and

American consumerism. If that sounds like a two-ton book, well, you’re almost right: most of these tales are hefty, but they’re also infinitely entertaining and irresistible. Reading them is like nibbling at futuristic fiction, but the future is tomorrow.


For a fan of stick-with-you stories, this book is a winner. It’s perfect for readers who don’t want the same old thing, or want something quick to read. If you’re looking for an early gift to give, “Friday Black” is a pretty strong bet.

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Hinds County School District implements Clear-bag Policy at athletic events

Community Bank lending coordinator addressed Raymond High Upward Bound students



November 12, 2018

Dear Parents, Students, Faculty, Staff and Community Fans:

The Hinds County School District is dedicated to the safety and welfare of all students, staff, and visitors. Throughout the years, the district has initiated several safety and security procedures to strengthen campus security at all of our schools. In an effort to provide a safe and secure environment for our parents, community members, students and staff, we will implement a Clear Bag Policy. The policy will go into effect on **Monday, November 5, 2018**. The policy will cover all on-campus activities, including athletic events.

Utilizing a screening process that includes a clear bag policy will enhance safety inside athletic venues and speed the screening process along. The clear bag is easily and quickly searched and greatly reduces faulty bag searches. This process also supports the Department of Homeland Security's "If You See Something, Say Something" campaign.

Guests are encouraged not to bring any types of bags inside HCS D athletic facilities; however, the following bags are permitted:

- Bags that are clear plastic, vinyl or PVC and do not exceed 12" x 6" x 12";
- One-gallon clear plastic freezer bags (Ziploc bag or similar); and
- Small clutch bags, with or without a handle or strap, that do not exceed 4.5" x 6.5" (approximately the size of a hand).
- An exception will be made for medically necessary items after proper inspection at a gate designated for this purpose.

We are living in a difficult time requiring difficult decisions from school districts. While these changes present an inconvenience to our students and parents, we must continue to be vigilant to protect the safety of our students and staff.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours in Education,

Delesicia Martin, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Education
Hinds County School District



CLEAR BAG POLICY

APPROVED BAGS	PROHIBITED ITEMS
 12" x 6" x 12" Clear Bag	BAGS THAT DO NOT MEET THE HINDS CLEAR BAG POLICY
 Clear Backpack	WEAPONS
 Clear Tote Bag	THROWABLE OBJECTS, INCLUDING BALLS
 Clear Duffel Bag	NON-SERVICE ANIMALS
 Clear Cooler	OUTSIDE FOOD, BEVERAGES, COOLERS, OR CONTAINERS
 Clear Bag	MASKS
 Clear Bag	ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, OR ILLEGAL DRUGS
 Clear Bag	NON-COMPLIANT ARTIFICIAL NOISEMAKERS, INCLUDING WHISTLES, AIR HORN, AND AIRPENS

Elaine Toney, community lending coordinator with Community Bank addressed students at Raymond High School on Financial Literacy last week. Topics discussed included how to establish good credit, your credit score and how to budget your money. The program is designed to offer consumer education to young people in school and in the community. The program offers several financial education topics that prepares students to be more bank-smart.

The students attending this session are part of the Hinds Community College-Utica Campus Upward Bound program. The program is designed to assist low-income, first generation college bound high school students in the successful completion of secondary education and to prepare them academically for enrollment by offering enrichment programs such as the financial literacy piece. The program is in its second year at RHS and THS and is coordinated by Natalie Russell, Upward Bound director.



Pictured L-R Back Row: Catherine Guerdon, reading-language arts interventionist; Natalie Russell, Upward Bound director; Tenicia Boone, math Interventionist; Arneisha Page; Rachel Burleigh; NaKiera Coleman; and Lakesha Harmon, academic champion. Front Row: Johnathan Britt; Tiara Johnson; Elaine Toney, community bank lending coordinator; Gernicia Jones; Kera Turner; O'Myah Clark; and Mya Scott



Elaine Toney, community lending coordinator with Community Bank addressed students at Raymond High School

Dola “DJ” Greer, bus driver for RES & CMS, named Bus Driver of the Month



Pictured L-R: Curtis Washington, director of Transportation – Durham Services; Dola Greer, Bus Driver of the Month; Carolyn Samuel, board secretary – District 5; Bobby Taylor, principal-RES; and Deborah Newman, principal-CMS.



Erika Vazquez-Masters, substitute teacher at Utica Elementary Middle School, named Substitute Teachers of the Month

Pictured L-R: La'Tesha Roby, assistant principal-UEMS; Erika Vazquez-Masters, Substitute Teacher of the Month-UEMS; and Carolyn Samuel, board secretary – District 5.



Pamela Myles, bookkeeper at Utica Elementary Middle School, named Employee of the Month

Pictured L-R: La'Tesha Roby, assistant principal-UEMS; Pamela Myles, Employee of the Month-UEMS; Timothy Myles, chief of police-Utica; and Carolyn Samuel, board secretary – District 5.

WRTM-FM SMOOTH 100.5 FM, IS JACKSON’S URBAN RHYTHM AND BLUES STATION PLAYING FAMILIAR FAVORITES FROM THE 70’S, 80’S AND 90’S. TUNE IN TO HEAR JUST THE RIGHT MIX OF BLUES AND TODAY’S BIGGEST HITS.



November 14 - 20, 2018

piggly wiggly



110 East Academy
CANTON, MS

1150 East Peace St.
CANTON, MS

STORE HOURS:
Monday - Saturday / 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

225 Meadowbrook Rd.
JACKSON, MS

STORE HOURS:
Monday - Saturday / 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

1574 West Government Blvd.
BRANDON, MS
Crossgates Shopping
Village

Down Home, Down The Street™

the price you see is the price
you pay at the register.
www.pigglywigglyms.com

No Cards Needed To Shop Our Low Prices

PIGGLY WIGGLY

**GRADE A
TURKEYS**

PER LB.

89¢

SHANK PORTION

**COOK'S
SMOKED HAM**

PER LB.

\$1 19

USDA CHOICE BEEF

**NEW YORK
STRIP STEAKS**

PER LB.

\$6⁹⁹

USDA CHOICE BEEF

**BONELESS
RUMP ROAST**

PER LB.

\$2⁹⁹

BOSTON BUTT

**PORK
ROAST**

PER LB.

\$1 29

FAMILY PACK

**PORK
STEAKS**

PER LB.

\$1 59

BONELESS

**PORK
LOIN**

PER LB.

\$1 79

SUGARTREE

**SPIRAL
HAM**

PER LB.

\$1 49

BONELESS

**FRYER
BREAST**

PER LB.

\$1 29

USDA CHOICE BEEF

**EYE OF
ROUND ROAST**

PER LB.

\$2⁹⁹

GRADE A FRESH

**BAKING
HENS**

PER LB.

99¢

ASSORTED FLAVORS

**BLUE BELL
ICE CREAM**

HALF GAL. ROUND

2/\$10

FRESH PRODUCE

FRESH EXPRESS

**SALAD
MIX**

12 OZ.

\$1 29

WHITE OR RED

**SEEDLESS
GRAPES**

PER LB.

\$1 49

CALIFORNIA

**CRISP
CELERY**

STALK

89¢

DAIRY & FROZEN DEPARTMENTS

LAND O LAKES

REAL BUTTER **\$3⁹⁹**

1 LB.

PILLSBURY

**GRANDS
BISCUITS**

16.3 OZ.

3/\$5

PILLSBURY

**CRESCENT
ROLLS**

8 OZ.

2/\$4

SHREDDED / CHUNK

KRAFT CHEESE **2/\$5**

7 - 8 OZ.

KRAFT

**PHILADELPHIA
CREAM CHEESE** **2/\$5**

8 OZ.

SIMPLY

**BREAKFAST
DRINK**

52 OZ.

\$2⁹⁹

DESSERT TOPPING

COOL WHIP **2/\$3**

8 OZ.

SELECT SIMPLE HARVEST

**PICTSWEET
VEGETABLES** **5/\$5**

12 OZ.